

# COMPREHENSIVE PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION PLAN

2015 - 2020

Section II - Existing Conditions Report



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***City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan:  
2015 – 2020***

***Section II – Existing Conditions Report***

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## Abbreviations

ADA: Americans With Disabilities Act (1990);

CARPC: Capital Area Regional Planning Commission;

CIP: City of Fitchburg Capital Improvement Program (CIP);

*Plan: City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan: 2015 - 2020;*

*Proposal: City of Fitchburg Conceptual Park and Open Space Proposal (2010);*

*Report: Section II – Existing Conditions Report – City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan: 2015 - 2020;*

*System: City of Fitchburg Park, Open Space, and Recreation System;*

WDNR: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources;

WDOT: Wisconsin Department of Transportation;

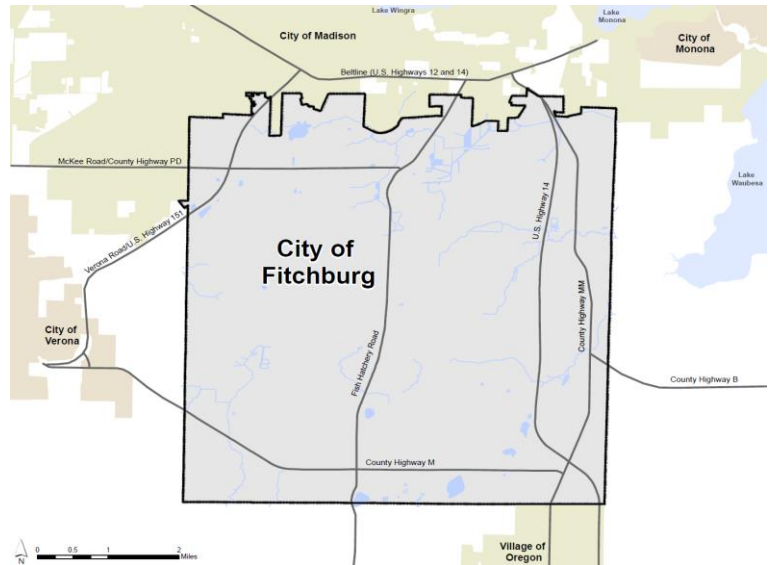


The *City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan – Existing Conditions Report* (hereafter “*Report*”) is Section II of a three-section *Plan* document. This *Report* provides an overview of existing conditions related to Fitchburg’s park, open space, and recreation system (hereafter “*system*”), and is organized into the following categories:

- Fitchburg profile;
- System stakeholder perceptions;
- System classification and standards;
- System assessment;
- System inventory;
- System implementation tools;
- System issues;

## Fitchburg Profile

The City of Fitchburg is located in southern Dane County, Wisconsin, and is accessed by U.S. Highways 14 and 18/151, and County Highways D, PD, MM and M. Fitchburg is southerly adjacent to the City of Madison, 76 miles west of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 135 miles northwest of Chicago, Illinois, and 273 miles southeast of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. Map 1 identifies Fitchburg’s vicinity and location.



**Map 1: City of Fitchburg Vicinity and Location**

Fitchburg is located in the Yahara River Basin on a small moraine created during the last ice age. Glacial deposits dammed up large pre-glacial valleys forming a chain of large lakes and wetlands, including Lake Barney, located in the south-central portion of the City. As the glacier retreated, the Yahara River and its tributaries, including Nine Springs, Swan, and Murphy’s Creeks, were formed. The fertile soils deposited in the river valley contributed to the establishment of agricultural activities in the Fitchburg area during the mid-1800s.

Fitchburg was first settled in 1837 and became the Town of Greenfield in 1847. The town was renamed Fitchburg in 1853 after a city in Massachusetts. Early growth in Fitchburg took place at several locations, including the stagecoach and railroad stops formally named Oak Hall and Lake View.

Agriculture played a major role in the Town of Fitchburg’s development. Because of its proximity to Madison, the town grew rapidly after 1960. In 1983, the Town of Fitchburg incorporated as a City with a population of more than 12,000. Employment in Fitchburg is balanced between manufacturing and retail service in the City’s commercial-industrial districts along Highway 18/151 and Fish Hatchery Road. Agriculture continues to play a prominent role in the City with almost half of the City’s land base, 11,000 acres, still remaining in agricultural use. City development plans concentrate growth within the urban service area and designated future urban growth areas in the City’s northern half.

Fitchburg’s recent growth is part of a larger regional trend. The City’s population has more than doubled in the past 30 years, while Dane County’s population has increased at an accelerated rate as well. The City, with an estimated population of over 26,000 in 2015, is expected to have a population of approximately 30,000 in 2020 and approximately 35,000 by 2030. Recent population demographic statistics indicate a City with a noticeable diversity of income levels and ethnicities. Furthermore, Fitchburg’s population consists of large segments of youths and seniors.

## Park, Open Space, and Recreation System – Stakeholder Perceptions

Fitchburg Planning and Zoning and Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Departments staff developed and coordinated a comprehensive public stakeholder participation process to ensure appropriate feedback and input on development of the *Plan*. Major components of this process are as follows:

1. Presentation of overview of *Plan* update to relevant City bodies:
  - Parks Commission – **June, 2015**;
  - Community and Economic Development Authority – **June, 2015**;
  - Plan Commission – **July, 2015**;
  - Resource Conservation Committee – **July, 2015**;
  - Board of Public Works – **August, 2015**;
2. Public opinion survey – **September, 2015**;
3. Public open house and meeting – **October, 2015**;
4. Presentation of draft *Plan* to Parks Commission – **February, 2016**;
5. Presentation of draft *Plan* to public (Open house and meeting) – **February, 2016**;
6. Presentation of draft *Plan* to City's Committee of the Whole – **March, 2016**;
7. Presentation of final *Plan* and public hearing/adoption process (Public, relevant City bodies, and Common Council) – **April/May, 2016**;



**Public meeting and workshop**  
Source: City of Fitchburg

Major feedback components from the stakeholder participation process included the following:

- Expand the user profile of the City's *system* through development of new recreational opportunities that reflect current trends and demands;
- Explore opportunities for public-private partnerships on City *system* properties;
- Accentuate Fitchburg's unique attributes, including trails/biking, natural resources, and agricultural lands, to enhance the City *system*;
- Ensure appropriate placement, size, and composition of new City *system* properties to derive maximum benefit;
- Ensure the multi-functional aspect of the City *system* including both active and passive recreation opportunities;

The public opinion survey instrument is contained in Appendix A herein. A generalized summary of the public opinion survey results are as follows:

1. Popular *system* uses:

- a. Walking/hiking/jogging (75%);
- b. Socializing (61%);
- c. Play/exercise equipment (58%);
- d. Biking (52%);
- e. Water activities (42%);

2. Almost 60% of survey respondents live closest to one of the following parks:

- a. McKee Farms
- b. Oak Meadow
- c. Bryne
- d. McGaw
- e. Chicory Meadows
- f. Rosecommons



**Recreational activities at  
McKee Farms Park**

Source: City of Fitchburg

3. Almost half (49%) of survey respondents use a park different than the one they live closest to, with almost 60% of those respondents using a different park because the park they live closest to does not have the recreational uses/facilities they normally use. The uses at these other parks match those of the most popular *system* uses.

4. Survey respondents are willing to walk/bike/drive longer distances to use parks that have recreational uses/facilities they normally use.

5. Exercising and socializing are the two general use categories that are most important to survey respondents when using a park.

6. Biking/walking trails are the feature that most survey respondents think makes Fitchburg unique.

7. Most desired potential uses in parks:

- a. Arboretum (56%);
- b. Amphitheatre/pavilions (51%);
- c. Farmers market (49%);
- d. Dog park (43%);
- e. Food/drink opportunities (40%);

8. Most popular reasons to use trails/paths:

- a. Exercise;
- b. Biking/walking from home to park/recreation areas;
- c. Biking/walking from home to "social" places;

9. Most popular existing recreational programming/services:

- a. Other;
- b. Leagues;

10. Most desired recreational programming/services:

- a. Classes;
- b. Fitness;
- c. Leagues;



**City of Fitchburg bike rodeo**

Source: City of Fitchburg



## Park, Open Space, and Recreation System – Classification and Standards

Fitchburg is dedicated to providing a comprehensive *system* to a diverse variety of users. The City *system* is comprised of various park types, as well as natural areas, special-use areas, undeveloped areas, trails/paths, and lands that provide for general ecosystem management (stormwater facilities and wetland buffers). The City's *Land Division Ordinance* (Appendix E herein) requires the dedication of parkland for specified development projects, assuring the City can acquire additional *system* properties necessary to serve its growing population. At least 2,900 square feet of land is required to be dedicated to the City for parkland purposes, for each proposed residential dwelling unit in the land division/development. Additionally, City ordinance requires park fees, to maintain and enhance the *system*, for any residential development entailing a rezoning of land, conditional use permit, or design review. Similarly, in 1994, Fitchburg developed a plan to update *system* restroom and shelter facilities to current federal guidelines for persons with physical disabilities or handicaps. All future *system* facilities will accommodate this user group, including accessible restrooms, convenient parking, and hard-surfaced paths with suitable grades for facility access.

The City also utilizes a classification system and standards to encourage desirable size, uses/facilities, and distribution of *system* properties throughout the City. According to Mertes & Hall (1996), park system standards should be viewed as “a guide that addresses minimum, not maximum goals to be achieved” and should reflect the minimum desirable number of acres, and equitable distribution of those acres, considered acceptable for park, open space, and recreation lands and facilities, as it relates to population. As such, Fitchburg's *system* standards are general guidelines for providing recreational opportunities in the City, and are limited in application due to physical landscape features, specific recreational demands, and other site-specific conditions.

Fitchburg's classifies its parks as either community, neighborhood, or area parks, and utilizes a standard for desired uses and facilities for each park classification category. Fitchburg also utilizes a service area standard to ensure equitable distribution of parks, by the aforementioned classification categories, throughout the City's urban service area. This standard is intended to assist in guiding decisions about future park locations in new developments, rather than determining if existing residential areas are deficient in parkland.

Fitchburg utilizes a general standard of 12 acres of “active” parkland for every 1,000 people. Active parkland includes only community, neighborhood, or area parks. The following further identifies *system* classification categories and related standards.

### Community Parks

Community parks are intended to serve persons within a large area (2.5 miles) and provide facilities in addition to those provided in area and neighborhood parks. Community parks can serve as neighborhood and area parks if they are located within walking or bicycling distance of a residence. These parks are designed to serve both large and small groups, such as community events and festivals. Fitchburg has historically located community parks as close as possible to the populations they are intended to serve and adjacent to elementary schools or conservancy areas, if feasible. Community parks should range in size from 50 to 100 acres, with a standard of 5 acres for every 1,000 people.



**Splash pad at McKee Farms Park**

Source: City of Fitchburg



## Area Parks

Area parks are intended to serve persons within bicycle distance (0.5 miles) and provide facilities for both young and adult users. Area parks serve a dual role, as a neighborhood park for immediate residents and also as an expanded facility to serve the needs of larger groups within the City. As such, area parks contain a wider variety of facilities than neighborhood parks since they must provide both away-from-home recreational opportunities for youth, and also serve as a focal point for organized activities such as little league, softball, picnics, soccer, and tennis. These parks should be located adjacent to elementary schools or natural areas, if feasible. Area parks should range in size from 10 to 20 acres, with a standard of 4 acres for every 1,000 people.

## Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve persons within walking distance (0.25 miles) and provide facilities for both young and adult users. These parks provide children with an away-from-home play area and serve as a gathering location for persons of all ages, and should be located adjacent to elementary schools or natural areas, if feasible. Neighborhood parks should range in size from 5 to 10 acres, with a standard of 3 acres for every 1,000 people.

Figure 1 summarizes Fitchburg *system* standards for “active” parkland, including community, area, and neighborhood parks.

**Figure 1: City of Fitchburg Neighborhood, Area, and Community Park Standards**

	Neighborhood Park*	Area Park	Community Park
<b>Acres/1,000 Population</b>	3 acres	4 acres	5 acres
<b>Service Area</b>	1/4 mile radius	1/2 mile radius	2 ½ mile radius
<b>Desirable Size</b>	5-10 acres	10-20 acres	50-100 acres
<b>Desirable Site Facilities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Junior size play apparatus</li> <li>2. Softball diamond</li> <li>3. One 1/2 basketball court</li> <li>4. Area for lawn and field games</li> <li>5. Area for crafts</li> <li>6. Open area for general play</li> <li>7. Volleyball area</li> <li>8. Soccer field</li> <li>9. Tree and shrub planting</li> <li>10. Picnic tables and benches</li> <li>11. Drinking fountain (size permitting)</li> <li>12. Shelter (size permitting)</li> <li>13. Accessible path system (size permitting)</li> <li>14. Natural areas</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All age play apparatus</li> <li>2. Softball diamonds</li> <li>3. One basketball court</li> <li>4. Area for lawn and field games</li> <li>5. Area for crafts</li> <li>6. Open area for general play</li> <li>7. Volleyball area</li> <li>8. Soccer field</li> <li>9. Trees and shrub plantings</li> <li>10. Picnic tables and benches</li> <li>11. Drinking fountain</li> <li>12. Shelter (w/ restrooms if not provided within a school structure)</li> <li>13. Accessible path system</li> <li>14. Natural areas</li> <li>15. Parking area where necessary</li> <li>16. Tennis court</li> <li>17. Outdoor education area</li> <li>18. Sledding slope (according to insurance carrier recommendations)</li> <li>19. Horseshoe pits</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All-age play apparatus</li> <li>2. Softball diamonds (lighted)</li> <li>3. Basketball courts</li> <li>4. Area for lawn and field games</li> <li>5. Area for crafts/passive recreation</li> <li>6. Open area for general play</li> <li>7. Volleyball courts (lighted)</li> <li>8. Soccer fields</li> <li>9. Tree and shrub plantings</li> <li>10. Picnic areas, including grills</li> <li>11. Drinking fountains</li> <li>12. Year-round shelter with restrooms</li> <li>13. Accessible path system</li> <li>14. Natural areas</li> <li>15. Parking area</li> <li>16. Tennis courts (lighted)</li> <li>17. Outdoor education areas</li> <li>18. Sledding slope</li> <li>19. Horseshoe pits</li> <li>20. Outdoor amphitheater</li> <li>21. Botanical sculpture garden</li> <li>22. Swimming pool</li> <li>23. Indoor recreation center</li> <li>24. Concessions</li> <li>25. Lacrosse field</li> <li>26. Baseball diamond (lighted)</li> <li>27. Bleachers for athletic fields</li> <li>28. Lighted ice-skating rink</li> <li>29. Frisbee golf course</li> </ol>

\*Neighborhood parks include playlots

## Recreation Facilities

The City also utilizes standards for recreation facilities normally found in “active” parkland, summarized in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: City of Fitchburg Recreation Facility Standards**

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	PER POPULATION	SIZE & DIMENSIONS	SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	LOCATION NOTES
<b>BASEBALL</b>					
Official	1 per 20,000	Baselines- 90' Pitching dist.- 60.5' Foul lines - min. 320' Center field - 400' +	3.0 - 3.85 Acres minimum	Locate home plate so pitcher is not throwing across sun, and batter is not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound to run east-northeast.	Lighted fields part of community complex
Youth	1 per 7,500	Baselines- 60' Pitching dist.- 46' Foul lines - 200' Center field - 200'-250'	1.2 Acres minimum		
<b>BASKETBALL</b>					
Full Court	1 per 7,500	50' x 84'	5040 - 7280 sq. ft.	Long axis north-south	Active recreation areas in area and community parks
1/2 Court	1 per neighborhood park	42' x 50'	2520 - 3640 sq. ft.	Long axis east-west	Active recreation areas in neighborhood parks
<b>GOLF</b>					
9-hole	1 per 20,000	Avg. length 2,250 yd.	50 Acres minimum	Majority of holes on north-south axis	9-hole course can accommodate 350 people/day
18-hole	1 per 40,000	Avg. length 6,500 yd.	110 Acres minimum		18-hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day
<b>ICE SKATING</b>	1 per 5,000	4,000 sq. ft.			
<b>ICE HOCKEY</b>	1 per 10,000	85' x 185' min.	22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	Long axis north-south	Best as part of multi-purpose facility
<b>SOCCER</b>	1 per 1,000	195'-225' x 330'-360' w/ 10' min. clearance on all sides	1.7 - 2.1 Acres	Long axis north-south	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
<b>SOFTBALL</b>	1 per 2,000	Baselines- 60' Pitching dist.- 40' (women), 45' (men) Fast pitch field radius from plate- 225' Slow pitch- 250' (women), 275' (men)	1.5 - 2.0 Acres	Same as baseball	Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used be used for youth baseball.
<b>SWIMMING</b>	1 per 20,000	Teaching- min. 25yd x 45' even depth of 3-4' Competitive- min. 25m x 16m Min. of 25 sq. ft. water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2:1 deck to water	Varies on size of pool and amenities, usually 1-2 Acres	None. Although care must be taken in siting lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
<b>TENNIS</b>	1 per 2,000	36' x 78' w/ 12' clearance on both ends	Min. of 7,200 sq. ft. single court area (2 acres per complex)	Long axis north-south	Located in groups of 2-4 courts.
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>	1 per neighborhood park	30' x 60' w/ 6' min. clearance on all sides	4,000 sq. ft. minimum	Long axis north-south	All neighborhood parks should have a volleyball area (grass or sand)
<b>Sand</b>	1 per 2,500				



**Baseball/softball diamond at McGaw Park**  
Source: City of Fitchburg



**Tennis courts at McKee Farms Park**  
Source: City of Fitchburg

### **Natural Areas**

Natural areas contain plant and wildlife habitat or have significant and unique features worthy of protection and preservation. In some instances, these areas can be used for passive recreation such as hiking, biking, cross country skiing, and nature study. After community, area, or neighborhood park needs have been met, in accordance with the aforementioned standards, the City may allow for remaining parkland dedication, per the City's Land Division Ordinance, in the form of a natural area. The City does not have size, use/facilities, or location/distribution standards for natural areas.

### **Special-Use Areas**

Special-use areas include lands and facilities designed to provide for unique recreation opportunities not normally accommodated in parks, including indoor classes and meetings, golf, and special events. The City does not have size, use/facilities, or location/distribution standards for special-use areas.



**Dunn's Marsh**

Source: City of Fitchburg

### **Trails/Paths**

Trails/paths provide for outdoor recreational opportunities and an alternative transportation option. The City does not currently have standards for miles or location/distribution of recreational trails, but it has made a concerted effort in the recent past to develop a comprehensive trail/path system with the *City of Fitchburg Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* (2008).

### **Environmental Management Features (Stormwater Facilities and Wetland Buffers)**

Stormwater facilities (consisting primarily of detention ponds and drainageways) and wetland buffers, collectively termed herein as environmental management features, are also included in the City's system. Occasionally, stormwater facilities also contain recreation elements such as trails/paths. The City's Public Works Department utilizes various regulatory mechanisms and standards to ensure sufficient stormwater facilities in the City.

Additionally, the City's Comprehensive Plan (2009) sets forth 300-foot wetland buffers to better protect and enhance biological and water quality components of wetlands. Land uses allowed within the buffers are to generally follow guidelines established by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission. Generally, it is not the intent of the buffers to prevent or obstruct the necessary maintenance, expansion, or construction of stormwater facilities, major underground utilities, or major transportation facilities. Encroachment into the buffers should be limited, with high level erosion control and native vegetation restoration.

In urban areas, best management practices dictate the first 100 feet of a 300-foot wetland buffer be native vegetation, such as prairie grass with related oak openings. Buffers at 100 feet or less in width should utilize native vegetation as long as it does not conflict with other facilities. Existing woodlots within the buffer are to remain with enhancement encouraged by removal of invasive species and other forest management or restoration methods. Agricultural production is allowed within buffers but it is preferred that the activity be organic.

The City may consider whether portions of a 300-foot wetland buffer could be used to fulfill parkland dedication requirements, per the City's *Land Division Ordinance*. Park shelters, access structures, and trails/paths may be allowed in 300-foot wetland buffers. If there is a park shelter or trail/path in a buffer, the trail should be located as far from the wetland as practicable and not within 75 feet of the wetland edge. In buffers of 300 feet or more, such facilities are to be located so as to not cause damage to the wetland and be at least 150 feet from the wetland edge, if feasible.

## Park, Open Space, and Recreation System – Assessment\*

This section of the *Report* assesses Fitchburg's *system* as it relates to standards identified in the previous section.

### Total Parkland

According to the standard identified in the previous section, the City should have 12 acres of “active” park (community, neighborhood, and area parks) acreage per 1,000 people. Figure 3 identifies existing and projected future Fitchburg total “active” park acreage, per the aforementioned standard.

**Figure 3: Existing and Future City of Fitchburg “Active” Park Acreage**

Year	Estimated City Population*	System Acreage Required To Meet Standard	Existing System Acreage or Additional Acreage Required to Meet Standard
2015	26,321	315.8	317.7 (Existing)
2020	30,431	365.2	Additional as needed to meet demand.
2030	35,386	424.6	Additional as needed to meet demand.

Figure 3 indicates the City currently has adequate total “active” park acreage for its population. The City's *Land Division Ordinance* (Appendix E herein) should ensure adequate total active park acreage in the future.

Figure 4 identifies existing Fitchburg *system* property acreage by category, as it relates to the previously identified standards.

**Figure 4: Existing City of Fitchburg System Acreage By Category**

Category	Acreage Required Per 1,000 People Standard	System Acreage Required To Meet Standard	System Acres	System Acreage Surplus or Deficiency, Per Standard
Community Park	3.0	79	122.9	+43.9
Area Park	4.0	105.3	71.5	-33.8
Neighborhood Park	5.0	131.6	123.3	-8.3
Natural Area	N/A	N/A	138.4	N/A
Special-Use Area	N/A	N/A	52.2	N/A
Undeveloped Area	N/A	N/A	82.9	N/A

Figure 4 indicates the City currently has sufficient park acreage to meet its community park standard, but is deficient in both area and neighborhood park categories. The City does not utilize acreage standards for the natural area, special-use area, or undeveloped area categories.

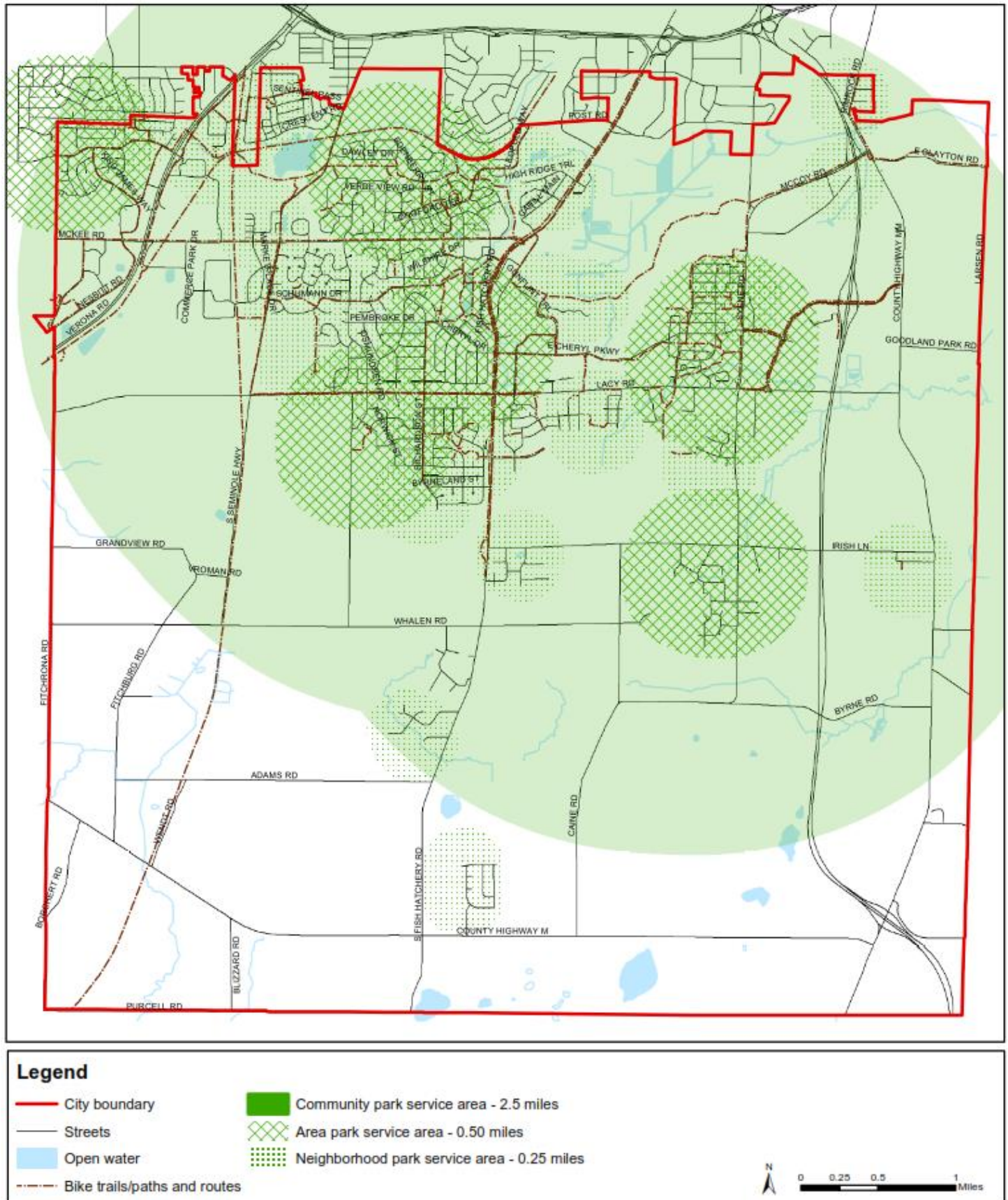
Additionally, the City does have approximately 22 miles of bicycle/pedestrian trails/paths within its borders. Some of these trails/paths are managed by the City, while others are managed by other governmental entities including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The City does not utilize “mileage” or location/distribution standards for City trails/paths.

Map 2 on the following page identifies City *system* service area standards for community, area, and neighborhood parks, and recreation facilities located within these parks.

\*As identified in Wisconsin Department of Administration estimates or City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Plan.



**Map 2: City of Fitchburg Park Service Areas**



Source: City of Fitchburg

### **Community Parks**

Map 2 indicates the service area for Fitchburg's community parks (2.5 miles) covers almost all residential areas in the City, with the exception of a rural sub-division along County Highway M.

### **Area Parks**

Map 2 indicates the service area for Fitchburg's area parks (0.5 miles) covers many residential areas in the City, but service area gaps do exist. These gaps include the northern portion of Fish Hatchery Road, the Fish Hatchery Road/Lacy Road area, north of Schumann Drive, various areas in close proximity to Verona Road, and various rural sub-divisions. Community parks, having the same amenities as area parks, can also serve as area parks to residents who are within a 0.5 miles of the park.

Additionally, some residences that are not in an area park service area are near City-owned natural areas. However, these areas do not provide the types of active recreation facilities when compared to a area park.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

Map 2 indicates the 0.25-mile service area for Fitchburg's neighborhood parks does not cover a number of residential areas in the City. These gaps include the northern portion of Fish Hatchery Road, north of McKee Road, and various areas in close proximity to Lacy Road, Fish Hatchery Road, and Verona Road.

Some residences that are not in a neighborhood park service area are near City-owned natural areas. However, these areas do not provide the types of active recreation facilities when compared to a neighborhood park.

The only residents to have expressed concern over a deficiency in their neighborhood are those who live in the Jamestown neighborhood. The City is in the process of addressing this deficiency through acquisition/development of a new neighborhood park.

### **Recreation Facilities**

Figure 5 on the following page identifies Fitchburg's existing recreation facilities as they relate to City standards.



***Shelter and playground at Oak Meadow Park***

*Source: City of Fitchburg*



**Figure 5: Existing Recreation Facilities**

Facility	City Standard	Facilities Required Per City Standard*	Existing Facilities	System Facility Surplus or Deficiency, Per Standard
<b>Baseball field</b>				
Official	1 per 20,000 people	1	0	-1
Youth	1 per 7,500 people	3	13	+10
<b>Basketball</b>				
Full-court	1 per 7,500 people	3	5	+2
Half-court	1 per neighborhood park	23	21	-2
<b>Golf course</b>				
9-hole	1 per 20,000 people	1	1	No surplus/deficiency
18-hole	1 per 40,000 people	0	0	No surplus/deficiency
<b>Ice hockey rink</b>	1 per 10,000 people	2	0	-2
<b>Ice skating rink</b>	1 per 5,000 people	5	2	-3
<b>Play fields</b>	1.25 acres per 1,000 people	32.9 acres	27.9 acres	-5.0 acres
<b>Soccer field</b>	1 per 1,000 people	26	9	-17
<b>Softball field</b>	1 per 2,000 people	13	13	No surplus/deficiency
<b>Swimming pool</b>	1 per 20,000 people	1	0	-1
<b>Tennis court</b>	1 per 2,000 people	13	16	+3
<b>Volleyball court</b>				
Grass	1 per neighborhood park	23	5	-18
Sand	1 per 2,500 people	10	4	-6

\*Based on City of Fitchburg 2015 population estimate of 26,321.

According to Figure 5, the City is most deficient in the number of soccer, volleyball, and play field facilities. However, existing system facilities do meet current demand. Conversely, Figure 5 indicates a surplus of youth baseball fields.

Figure 5 also indicates Fitchburg does have a sufficient population to support the development of an official baseball field and swimming pool, although community groups have not come forward expressing a need for them.



**Youth soccer field at McKee Farms Park**

Source: City of Fitchburg

## Park, Open Space, and Recreation System – *Inventory*

Fitchburg's *system* consists of over 600 acres of parks and open spaces, various recreation and associated facilities, and 22 miles of trails/paths. This section of the *Report* inventories Fitchburg's *system* utilizing the following categories:

- Community parks;
- Area parks;
- Neighborhood parks;
- Natural areas;
- Special-use areas;
- Undeveloped areas;
- Trails/paths;
- Environmental management features;
- Programs and services;

The numbers utilized to identify *system* category components in the following correspond to those utilized on Map 1 – *City of Fitchburg Park, Open Space, and Recreation System* on the following page. Additionally, Appendix B herein identifies park amenities, as identified in the following, in tabular form.

### Community Parks

Fitchburg has two community parks as follows:

#### 1. McGaw Park (64.8 acres) – 5236 Lacy Road

This park is the largest in Fitchburg and is well-suited for organized league activities such as youth ball, adult softball, and soccer, and community events such as softball tournaments. The park contains four lighted softball diamonds, youth ball field, lacrosse field, shelter with restrooms, picnic tables, two tennis courts, four sand volleyball courts, half-court basketball, play equipment, a bike/pedestrian path, three parking areas, two park identification signs, and landscaping. The shelter can be reserved for picnics and gatherings for up to 100 people. A 1.5-mile trail cuts through a 30-acre woodland, with the trail head located at the east parking lot. The park also has a 2-acre prairie area located near the northern entrance and various tall grass areas.

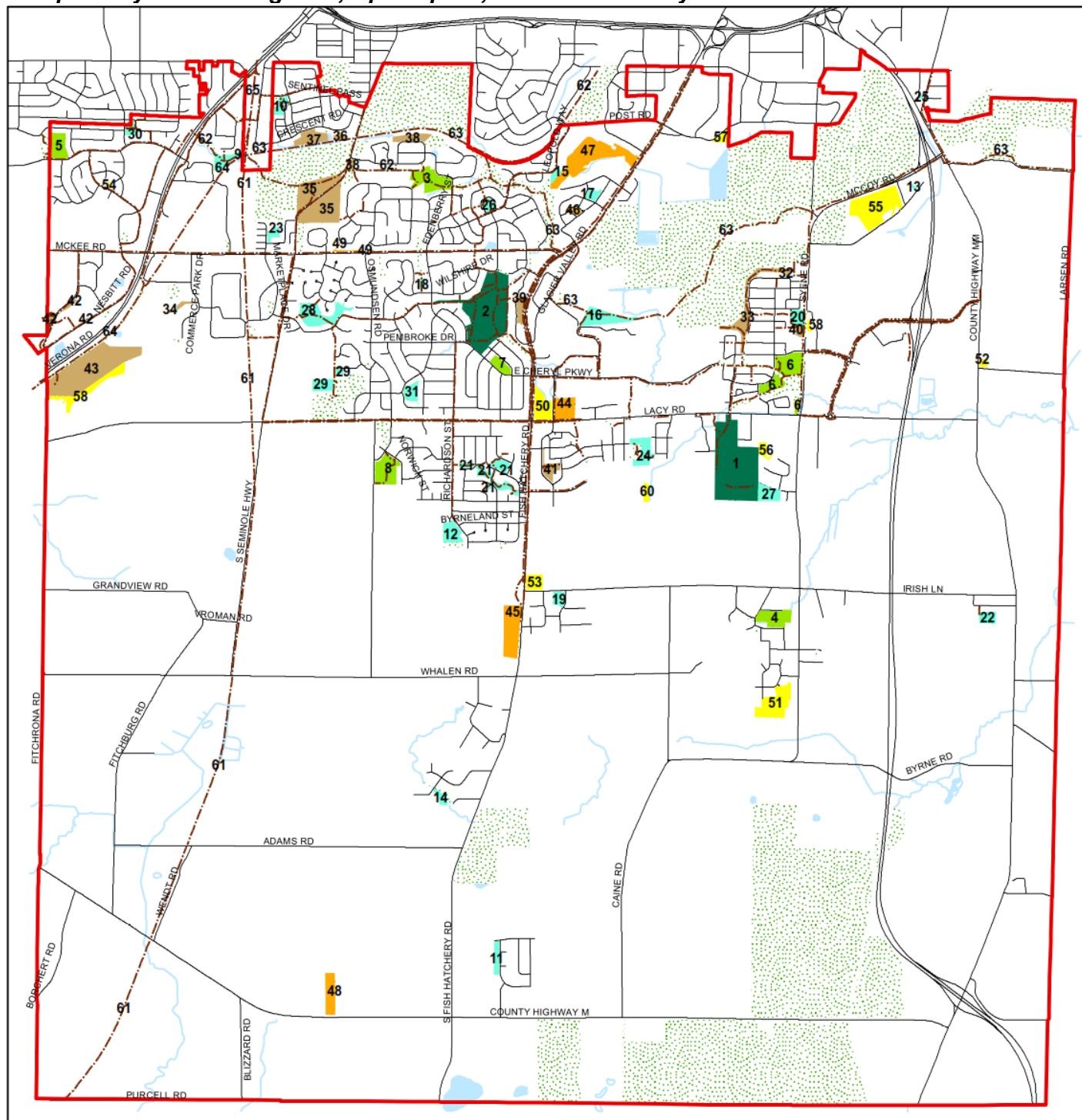
#### 2. McKee Farms Park (58.1 acres) – 2930 Chapel Valley Road

This park is well-suited for larger community events, youth ball, and soccer leagues. The park hosts Fitchburg Days, Festa Italia, and Concerts in the Park. The park includes a splash pad, multi-use shelter with restrooms, picnic tables, a mile-long bicycle/pedestrian path system, large parking areas (152 car capacity), two softball diamonds, seven soccer fields, one full-court basketball, three play equipment areas (including Kids Crossing), six lighted tennis courts, two sand volleyball courts, an area for seasonal ice skating, benches/memorial benches and landscaping. The park also has five acres of tall turf grass scattered throughout. The indoor shelter can accommodate 30 people and could potentially be used as a warming shelter during the winter season. The outdoor shelter can accommodate 150 people.

Portions of the park facilitate stormwater drainage, including four detention ponds (5.83 acres), two waterways, and a greenway. The waterways are typically dry. Two ponds are located on the northern side of the park. The McKee Farms wet pond acts as stormwater detention for McKee Park Greenway and the Chapel Valley neighborhood. The McKee Farms dry pond acts as a holding pond for the McKee Farms wet pond. Two ponds are also located on the eastern side of the park, acting as stormwater detention for the Mickelson Woods neighborhood. One pond contains an aerator. The park also has a depression area utilized as a skating rink that also acts as a dry pond in times of heavy rainfall.



**Map 2: City of Fitchburg Park, Open Space, and Recreation System**



**Legend**

City boundary

Streets

Open water

Bike trails/paths and routes

Other Public Land

**City of Fitchburg System - Category**

Community Park

Area Park

Neighborhood Park

Natural Area

Special Use Area

Undeveloped Area

**\*\*The numbers on the map match those in the Inventory portion of Section II - Existing Conditions Report, City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan: 2015 - 2020 Update.\*\***



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Source: City of Fitchburg

## Area Parks

Fitchburg has six area parks as follows:

### 3. Chicory Meadows Park (14.9 acres) – 5772 Auburn Dr.

This park, located along the Capital City Bike Trail, contains a soccer field, ball field, two tennis courts, full and half-court basketball, two sets of playground equipment, shelter, picnic tables, sledding hill, paved path system (including Capital City State Trail), and landscaping. A 4-acre grassland area is located in the eastern portion of the park. The central portion of the park has a 1.5-acre wooded area extending north and south.



**Chicory Meadows Park**

Source: City of Fitchburg

### 4. Greenfield Park (10.8 acres) – 5187 Greenfield Park Road

This park is one of Fitchburg's oldest and historically served as a community park due to its size, parking, and access. The park continues to accommodate moderate levels of league play for softball, youth ball and picnic gatherings. The park also contains a 2-acre woodland containing large oak trees reminiscent of the oak savannas that once dominated the landscape. An intermittent drainageway and a 2-acre tall grass area extend through the southern portion of the park. The park also contains a shelter, restrooms, drinking fountain, picnic tables, grills, play equipment, half basketball court, volleyball area, five horseshoe pits, two softball diamonds, park identification sign, and landscaping. The shelter can accommodate up to 175 people.

### 5. Huegel-Jamestown Park (9.0 acres) – 5810 Williamsburg Way

This park is jointly maintained by the City of Madison (7.8 acres) and Fitchburg (9.0 acres). The park contains a large shelter, drinking fountain, play equipment, two tennis courts, full basketball court, softball diamond, soccer field, volleyball area, sledding hill, ice skating rink, paved path, and landscaping. The park has adequate street access to permit league softball, youth ball and youth soccer. A 1.5-acre tall grass area is located in the northeast portion of the park.



**Swan Creek Park**

Source: City of Fitchburg

### 6. Swan Creek Park (19.3 acres) – 5175 E. Cheryl Dr.

This park, located in the Swan Creek neighborhood along the north branch of Swan Creek, contains playground equipment, a shelter with water fountain and restrooms, picnic tables, full-court basketball, two tennis courts, paved paths with bridges, tall grass areas, landscaping, and park identification signs. Two rain gardens, maintained by the Swan Creek neighborhood association, are located on either side of the playground.

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**7. Tower Hill Park (4.5 acres) – 5610 Cheryl Dr.**

This park contains a shelter, restrooms, drinking fountain, play equipment, half-court basketball, softball and soccer fields, volleyball area, picnic tables, and landscaping. The park has excellent access due to substantial street frontage, allowing for moderate youth league soccer and youth ball use. The ball field is too small for adult league play. The shelter can accommodate up to 100 people. Because of the close proximity of homes to the shelter, gatherings must be limited in size to minimize neighborhood impact.

**8. Wildwood South Prairie Park (13.0 acres) – 2629 Stanbrook St.**

This park contains a youth softball field, two soccer fields, play equipment, half-court basketball, two tennis courts, small shelter, drinking fountain, portable toilet, benches, park identification sign, paths, and landscaping. The park has substantial street frontage, allowing for youth ball and youth soccer leagues. A paved trail connects facilities within the park and lies adjacent to a 3-acre tall grass area. A pond and natural waterway on the northern end of the park provide stormwater drainage and detention for the Wildwood South neighborhood.



**Wildwood South Prairie Park**  
Source: City of Fitchburg



## Neighborhood Parks

Fitchburg has 23 neighborhood parks as follows:

### 9. Arrowhead Park (6.1 acres) – 2431 Chalet Gardens Ct.

This park is located along the Capital City State Trail in the Nine Springs E-way. The park contains play equipment, half-court basketball, and landscaping. There are also two detention ponds that reduce peak flow and reduce sediments within stormwater entering Dunn's Marsh. The ponds act as stormwater detention for the Nakoma Heights, Chalet Gardens, and Western Hills neighborhoods.



**Belmar Hills Park**  
Source: City of Fitchburg

### 10. Belmar Hills Park (4.2 acres) – 4600 Jeneweien Road

This park is located adjacent to the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County. The park contains play equipment, half-court basketball, ball field, path, interior path lighting, a picnic table, and landscaping.

### 11. Briarwood Park (3.9 acres) – 1870 Derby Dr.

This park contains play equipment, a half basketball court, benches, picnic tables, ball field, small soccer field, volleyball area, and a 1.3-acre prairie. League play is not recommended on the ball and soccer fields due to their small size.

### 12. Byrne Park (7.8 acres) – 2535 Richardson St.

This park, located at the edge of Byrnewood Neighborhood, has an expansive view of Fitchburg farmland. The park contains play equipment, benches, a half basketball court, picnic tables, shelter, ball field, and a drinking fountain. The ball field can accommodate limited youth league play. A 3-acre tall grass area is located in the western portion of the park and has a mowed trail.

### 13. Clayton Park (0.5 acres) – 4992 West Clayton Road

This small park is one of the City's older parks and contains play equipment, half-court basketball, bench, and a small area of open turf grass.

### 14. Country Vineyard Park (2.6 acres) – 2136 Vintage Dr.

This park, located in a wooded area in the Country Vineyard Neighborhood, has play equipment, half-court basketball picnic tables, and landscaping. The southern portion of the park contains a tall grass area and a 2-acre area adjacent to the park serves as a drainageway. The park has limited street access.

### 15. Fitchburg Springs Park (1.8 acres) – 3333 Leopold Way

This park is considered a part of the Nine Springs E-Way and is adjacent to the Nine Springs Golf Course. The park contains play equipment, a bench, a 1.5-acre wooded area, and Nine Springs Creek.



### **16. Gunflint Trail Park (13.1 acres) – 5420 Gunflint Trail**

This park is a part of the Nine Springs E-Way and is located next to Eagle School, a private school for kindergarten through eighth grade. The Capital City State Trail passes through the northern portion of the park. The eastern portion of the park (1.96 acres) was dedicated for conservancy purposes. While the park has some landscaping, no other recreation facilities have been developed. Parking is available along the street.

### **17. Hatchery Hill Park (2.7 acres) – 3035 Cahill Main**

This park contains a ball field, play equipment, benches, a small shelter, picnic tables, paved access path, and landscaping. There are also two dry ponds, located to the north of the playground, that provide stormwater detention for the Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin.

### **18. Hawk Ridge Park (1.5 acres) – 5740 Wilshire Dr.**

This park is part of the public open space that is situated directly behind homes in the Seminole Ridge Neighborhood. The park contains play equipment, picnic tables, benches, a small gazebo, drinking fountain, landscaping, and a path that extends into a greenway that is both open and wooded.



### **19. Hillside Heights Park (3.5 acres) – 2419 Kathleen St.**

**Hawk Ridge Park Playground**  
Source: City of Fitchburg

This park contains play equipment, half-court basketball, volleyball area, and landscaping. A 1.5 acre detention pond in the park acts as stormwater detention for the Hillside Heights Neighborhood. Areas surrounding the pond are left to grow in a natural state. Fluctuating winter water levels and the lack of municipal water service makes this water body difficult to maintain for ice skating.

### **20. Nannyberry Park (5.1 acres) – 5165 Nannyberry Dr.**

This park, located in Swan Creek Neighborhood, contains play equipment, a small shelter, picnic tables, paved trails, open turf grass area, and half-court basketball. A rain garden is located near the park sign and is maintained by the neighborhood association.

### **21. Oak Meadow Park (13.6 acres) – 2610 Targhee St., 5636/5637 Old Oak Dr., 2625 Placid St.**

This park consists of multiple areas that include a large open turf grass area, play area, and wooded upland area. The play area contains a shelter, picnic tables, a half-court basketball, playground equipment. Additionally a paved trail runs throughout the park. A heritage (+200 years old) red oak tree is also located in the park.

### **22. Perry J. Schappe Park (4.4 acres) – 4879 Maple Ave.**

This park contains a ball field, picnic table, play equipment, half-court basketball, and landscaping.

Organized activities such as youth ball and soccer leagues could create parking and traffic problems along Maple Avenue and are not recommended due to limited access.

**23. Pine Ridge Park (2.7 acres) – 2980 Pineway Trl.**

This park contains play equipment, ball field, half-court basketball, benches, small shelter, picnic tables, and landscaping.

**24. Quarry Hill Park (9.1 acres) – 5425 Quarry Hill Dr.**

This park contains a ball field, shelter, picnic tables, play equipment, half-court basketball, paved path, and landscaping. The southern 2.4-acre portion of the park, which was dedicated with the Fitchburg Technology Campus development, remains undeveloped.



**25. Rimrock Park (0.3 acres) – 2992 Rimrock Rd.**

This small park contains playground equipment, half-court basketball, picnic table, and landscaping.

**26. Rosecommons Park (3.0 acres) – 5640 Longford Terrace**

This park is centrally located within the Highlands of Seminole Neighborhood. Situated on top of a hill, the park contains play equipment, benches, small shelter, paved path, and landscaping. The hill can provide for sledding opportunities, with other park facilities not recommended on the hill due to its relatively steep slope.

**27. S. Johnson Park (7.1 acres) – 5201 Wildheather Dr.**

This park is adjacent to McGaw Park and includes both open and densely wooded areas. The park contains play equipment, swings, and a nature/deer trail that runs east to west through the woods. The forest has a drainageway and large shagbark hickory trees that can be viewed along the trail.

**28. Seminole Glen Park (15.8 acres) – 5872 Schumann Dr.**

This park contains play equipment, a shelter, picnic tables, drinking fountain, half-court basketball, ball field, volleyball area, and landscaping. This park also contains about five acres each of woodland, turf grass, and lowland surrounded by tall grass/prairie areas. A paved trail network connects three entry points, providing access to the interior of the park. The trails also provide routes to the adjacent Seminole Pool and Tennis Club, and Stoner Prairie Elementary School. A footpath through the woods provides additional access to the park and an opportunity for passive recreation. Two wet detention ponds are also located within the park, totaling two acres. League activities are not recommended because of the limited street access to the park, potential parking problems, and close proximity to adjacent homes.

**Quarry Hill Park**  
Source: City of Fitchburg



**Stoner Prairie Park**  
Source: City of Fitchburg

**29. Stoner Prairie Park (6.6 acres) – 5855 Scarlet Dr.**

This park consists of two areas that are adjacent to the Stoner Prairie Elementary and Savanna Oaks Middle Schools. The northern portion of the park contains play equipment, a bench, picnic table, and landscaping. The southern park area has a ball field that can be used for league play. A paved path connects the two park areas. Additional play equipment, basketball courts, and play fields are available on school grounds.

**30. Western Hills Park (2.8 acres) – 2499 S. Whitney Way**

This park contains playground equipment, ball field, half-court basketball, volleyball area, picnic tables, drinking fountain, landscaping, and a paved path that extends east to west. The park has excellent street access on three sides, but the ball field is located very close to adjacent homes and league play is not recommended.

**31. Wildwood Park (5.2 acres) – 5768 Barbara Dr.**

This park contains playground equipment, ball field, half-court basketball, volleyball area, shelter, drinking fountain, picnic tables, a small hill for potential sledding

use, and landscaping. The ball field is located close to adjacent homes and league ball play is not recommended.



## Natural Areas

Fitchburg has 12 natural areas as follows:

### 32. Black Walnut Preserve (0.3 acres) – 5176 Buttonbush Dr.

This is a small undeveloped area in the Swan Creek Neighborhood containing a large black walnut tree estimated to be 230 years old.

### 33. Bluestem Park (14.4 acres) – 2801 Big Bluestem Pkwy

This area, located in the Swan Creek Neighborhood, consists predominately of tall grass and is adjacent to natural land owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The area contains a paved trail that extends throughout the length of the site and connects to Nannyberry and Swan Creek Parks.

### 34. Commerce Park Hillside (1.9 acres) – 2891 Commerce Dr.

This is a wooded area on a steep hillside in the Fitchburg Commerce Park development, containing many mature hickory and oak trees.

### 35. Dawley Conservancy (38.9 acres) – 3040/3041 S. Seminole Hwy.

This area is part of a larger system of public conservation land. The area consists of woodland on both sides of Seminole Highway, and grassland and prairie adjacent to Dunn's Marsh on the west side of the highway. An intermittent stream draining from County Highway PD and Seminole Highway runs through the wooded area west of Seminole Highway, and proceeds under the Capital City Trail. A 1-mile walking/hiking trail loops through the wooded area east of Seminole Highway, with the trail head next to the conservancy sign across the street from the parking area. Additionally, five major bicycle/pedestrian trails either have a terminus at or run through the area, designated as the "Dawley Bike Hub." The Bike Hub has a bike repair/maintenance station and bike "kiosk", as well as a restroom facility with observation deck.

### 36. Dunn's Marsh (North) Natural Area (7.8 acres) – 4523 Crescent Road

This area, connecting to a larger parcel of land owned by the City of Madison, was dedicated to the public for park, water retention, and other public purposes. This area consists of a 2-acre marsh area, serving both as a nesting area for wildlife and stormwater detention basin. There is also a 5-acre wooded area located along the northern borders of the marsh.

### 37. Dunn's Marsh – The Preserve (1.4 acres) – 4431 Crescent Road

This area has a beautiful view of Dunn's Marsh, and was dedicated with the condition that it may not be built upon or changed except to restore pre-settlement conditions for improved environmental, conservation, and water quality purposes.

### 38. Harlan Hills Prairie and Natural Area (6.4 acres) – 5760 Ballina Pkwy., 5837 Dawley Dr.

This area serves as a 5.12-acre park for the Harlan Hills Neighborhood and overlooks the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. This area has mowed trails and a prairie with ongoing restoration. In the southwest corner of the subdivision, along Seminole Highway, there is a 1.25-acre wooded area dedicated for park purposes.



**Black Walnut Preserve**

Source: City of Fitchburg



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**39. Mickelson Woods (4.0 acres) – 2850 Mickelson Pkwy.**

This small oak-hickory wooded area is located east of McKee Farms Park between Fish Hatchery Road and Mickelson Parkway. The northern portion of the site consists of a mowed area with a paved path that connects the Fish Hatchery Road recreational trail to McKee Farms Park. A trail system is planned for the wooded area.

**40. Nannyberry Wetland (2.4 acres) – Across from 2830 S. Syene Road**

This area was dedicated as open space/environmental corridor as it contains a wooded wetland. The area also contains paved paths which are a part of the Swan Creek recreational trail system.

**41. Nobel Woodlot (5.1 acres) – 2620 Research Park Dr.**

This area is a managed woodlot in the Fitchburg Technology Campus Neighborhood that was dedicated for park purposes. A partially complete trail system runs through the site.

**42. Orchard Pointe Natural Areas (2.8 acres) – Fitchrona Road**

Three areas in the Orchard Pointe development were dedicated to the City for park purposes. The first is a wooded area adjacent to the City's municipal boundary, the second is a rock outcrop area along Fitchrona Road, and the third is a small area located adjacent to Nesbitt Heights Pond on Nesbitt Road. The wooded area contains a paved path that runs along Fitchrona Road and connects to residential areas to the west.

**43. Quarry Ridge Recreation Area (53.1 acres) – 2740 Fitchrona Road**



**Quarry Ridge Recreation Area**  
Source: City of Fitchburg

This area provides direct access to the Military Ridge and Capital City State Trails, and contains off-road biking and walking trails. This area also contains a shelter that can accommodate up to 75 people, restrooms, picnic tables, information kiosk, and a parking lot. Additionally, the site consists of a wooded area, an abandoned gravel pit with very steep inclines, and an 11-acre wet detention/infiltration pond that collects stormwater from the Jamestown Neighborhood.



## Special-Use Areas

Fitchburg has six special-use areas as follows:

### 44. Community/Senior Center (9.4 acres) – 5520/5510 Lacy Rd.

This area is a multi-use facility, designed to accommodate City meetings, senior citizen activities, civic groups, private and business gatherings, community events, and recreational activities. Areas around the center include native plantings and prairie restoration areas. The center is on the “City Campus” which also includes City Hall and the Fitchburg public library.



**Fitchburg Community/Senior Center**

*Source: City of Fitchburg*

### 45. Gorman Wayside Veterans Memorial Park (0.5 acres) – 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Road

This area contains a veteran’s memorial, a picnic table, monument, and landscaping, and provides an attractive view of Fitchburg farmland. A 2-acre oak savanna is located to the north of the site, one of Fitchburg’s last remaining remnants, as are open fields used for public works purposes.

### 46. Nevin Village Green (1.2 acres) – 3001 Cahill Main



**Nine Springs Golf Course**

*Source: City of Fitchburg*

This area in the Hatchery Hill Neighborhood includes a gazebo, drinking fountain, picnic tables, paved paths, landscaping, and benches.

### 47. Nine Springs Golf Course (31.2 acres) – 2201 Traceway Dr.

This area is a nine-hole executive golf course, with clubhouse and maintenance facilities, with operation and maintenance leased to a private part. A nine-hole disc golf course, and ice-skating rink, was recently installed as well. Nine Springs Creek, an intermittent waterway, travels along the southern portion of the site from west to east. The southern perimeter of the site contains a 1-acre tall grass area and the northwestern part of the site has a 3.5-acre stormwater detention area.

### 48. Oak Hall Cemetery (8.9 acres) – 5868 County Highway M

The area had its beginnings as a cemetery in 1853 near the site of one of the original settlements in Fitchburg (Oak Hall). Early area settlers and Civil War soldiers are buried here, along with a few recent burials. A 5-acre grassland area is located directly north of the main cemetery area.

### 49. Seminole Hills Open Space (1.0 acres) – 2968 Osmundsen Road

This area includes three small parcels along McKee Road dedicated to the City through the Seminole Hills Estates development. The easternmost parcel at 2968 Osmundsen Road has a booster station. Some of the open space is forested, with sidewalk extending along the area’s southern boundary.

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### **Undeveloped Areas**

Fitchburg has various undeveloped areas as follows:

**50. Fitchburg Center (9.9 acres) – 5540 Lacy Road**

This area, located across Research Park Dr. from the Fitchburg Public Library, consists of a 5-acre wooded and grassland area located in the northern portion of the site, which supports tall grass and hickory and oak trees. The area also has a 75-foot wide open space/greenway easement running north to south containing a waterway that provides stormwater drainage for the surrounding area. The area is currently undeveloped and has no planned use.

**51. Gold Addition (17.1 acres) – Old Indian Trail**

This area is currently undeveloped and has no planned use.

**52. Goodland Park Road (1.4 acres) – 4878 Goodland Park Road**

This area is currently undeveloped and has no planned use.

**53. Irish Lane Open Space (5.4 acres) – 5554/5564 Irish Lane**

This area, consisting of a former home site and commercial greenhouse growing area, is currently undeveloped and has no planned use.

**54. King James Way (0.3 acres) – 2919/2921 King James Way**

This area, consisting of a former home site, is currently undeveloped and is planned to have play equipment and picnic tables installed in the near future.

**55. McCoy/West Clayton Open Space (29.2 acres) – East of 5062 W. Clayton Road**

This area, consisting of a wooded lowland, is currently undeveloped and has no planned use.

**56. McGaw Southeast (2.8 acres) – 5236 Lacy Road**

This area adjoins McGaw Park to the southeast, is currently undeveloped, and is planned for future expansion of the park.

**57. Pinnacle (2.7 acres) – 1351 Post Road**

This area, consisting of former farmland, is located in close proximity to a large complex of newer multi-family residences, and is just northwest of the Jenni & Kyle Preserve, owned by the Dane County Parks System. The site is currently undeveloped and has no planned use.

**58. Quarry Ridge Recreation Area South (11.1 acres) – 2740 Fitchrona Road**

This area adjoins Quarry Ridge Recreation Area to the south, is currently undeveloped, and is planned for future expansion of the recreation area.

**59. Syene Road (0.9 acres) – Syene Road/No Oaks Ridge**

This area is currently undeveloped and is planned to have play equipment and picnic tables installed spring of 2016.

**60. Techlands (2.3 acres) – Nobel Drive**

This area is currently undeveloped and has no planned use.

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## Trails/Paths

In addition to various neighborhood shared-use paths that are part of the City system, five major trails/paths are located in the City are as follows:

**61. Badger State Trail** – This trail is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (hereafter “WDOT”) and managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (hereafter “WDNR”). The trail is 40 miles long and connects Fitchburg and the Madison metropolitan area to Freeport Illinois. The trail’s northern terminus is at the Dawley Bike Hub in the northwest portion of Fitchburg. The trail is paved throughout the City.



**Badger State Trail in the City of Fitchburg**

Source: City of Fitchburg

**62. Cannonball Trail** – This trail is owned and managed by Fitchburg. The trail runs from the Beltline (U.S. Highways 12/14) to McKee Road, near the intersection at Verona Road. The trail’s western terminus is at the Dawley Bike Hub in the northwest portion of Fitchburg. The trail is paved throughout the City.

**63. Capital City State Trail** – This trail is predominately owned by WDOT and managed by WDNR. Fitchburg does own a 2.66-acre portion of the trail corridor (dedicated with the Seminole Hills Estates Neighborhood). The trail traverses the southern portion of the Madison metropolitan area, from east to west, running through the City of Madison, Fitchburg including the Dawley Bike Hub in the northwest portion of the City, and unincorporated Dane County. The trail is paved throughout the City.

**64. Military Ridge State Trail** – This trail is owned by WDOT and managed by WDNR. The trail’s eastern terminus is located at the Dawley Bike Hub in the northwest portion of Fitchburg. The trail continues on to the west through Mount Horeb, Blue Mounds and Dodgeville. The trail is paved throughout the City.

**65. Southwest Commuter Path** – This trail is owned and managed by the City of Madison. The trail’s southern terminus is at the Dawley Bike Hub in the northwest portion of Fitchburg. The trail continues north into Madison, crossing the Beltline (U.S. Highways 12/14) via an overpass. The trail is paved throughout the City.

As previously stated, all of the aforementioned trails either have a terminus at or run through the Dawley Bike Hub, located at the Dawley Conservancy. The Dawley Bike Hub has a bike repair/maintenance station and bike “kiosk”, as well as a restroom facility with observation deck.



**Restroom and observation deck at Dawley Bike Hub**

Source: City of Fitchburg

### ***Environmental Management Features (Stormwater Facilities and Wetland Buffers)***

Fitchburg has numerous facilities designed to manage stormwater in the City, including wet/dry ponds and greenways. For a complete list of these facilities, please see the *City of Fitchburg Specific Management Plan for Public Properties* (2014).

The City does not inventory wetland buffers.

### ***Programs and Services***

Fitchburg organizes and administers a wide range of recreation programs and services reflecting current demand and trends. These programs and services utilize the Fitchburg Community/Senior Center, Fitchburg parks, and public school facilities located in the City. Many of these programs and services are provided by third-party contractors, with City recreation staff providing oversight and administrative services.

Additional recreation programs and services are administered by local schools and associated organizations, including the Madison School and Community Recreation, the public recreation provider of the Madison Metropolitan School District. Fitchburg is home to three school districts (Madison Metropolitan, Verona Area, and Oregon). The City currently uses only Verona Area School District facilities for recreation programs/services, including Stoner Prairie Elementary School and Savanna Oaks Middle School. These schools are located adjacent to each other and include facilities such as gymnasiums, game fields, and playgrounds. Additionally, Aldo Leopold Elementary School, part of the Madison Metropolitan School District, hosts an “open schoolhouse” once a week, nightly during the school year. During open schoolhouse, school resources, including the gym, library, and computers, are available for families and community members use. Fitness classes and special events are scheduled during open schoolhouse as well. The City does not have any middle or high schools where facilities such as swimming pools and athletic fields are typically provided.

A complete listing of Fitchburg 2014 recreational programs and services is provided in Appendix C herein.



***Pack'n the Park event – McKee Farms Park***

*Source: City of Fitchburg*



***Youth flag football league***

*Source: City of Fitchburg*



***Daddy-daughter dance***

*Source: City of Fitchburg*

## Park, Open Space, and Recreation System – *Implementation Tools*

This section of the *Report* identifies various tools to potentially be utilized to maintain and enhance the City *system*, and implement the recommended action items contained in Section III of this *Plan*. The tools are organized in to the following categories:

- Regulatory;
- Acquisition;
- Funding;
- Inter-governmental cooperation;

### **Regulatory**

City regulatory tools most relevant to the City's *system* include the *Land Division Ordinance* and the *Zoning Ordinance*.

#### **City Land Division Ordinance**

Per the City's *Land Division Ordinance*, contained as Appendix E herein, specified land divisions and related developments within the City are required to dedicate land to provide adequate park and recreational open space to meet the needs created by the land division/development. For each proposed residential dwelling unit in the land division/development, at least 2,900 square feet of land is required to be dedicated to the City for parkland purposes.

If there is no land suitable for parkland dedication within the proposed development area, or the Park Commission determines that a cash contribution will better serve the public interest, said Commission may require the subdivider/developer pay monies in lieu of the required parkland dedication. Monies in lieu of parkland are placed in a separate, non-lapsing fund to be used by the City for acquisition and or development of parkland. The *Land Division Ordinance* also requires a subdivider/developer to pay a parkland improvement fee to be utilized for the construction/maintenance of park facilities, as well as dedication of street frontage for dedicated parkland.

#### **City Zoning Ordinance**

Zoning, as originally conceived, was primarily designed to separate incompatible land uses. Present-day zoning incorporates many more objectives including the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. The City's *Zoning Ordinance* identifies zoning districts and lands within these districts is available for development subject to the standards and requirements for that district. All land dedicated to or owned by the City for park or recreational open space purposes is designated in the Park and Recreation (PR) zoning district.

Zoning can also serve to protect environmentally sensitive areas. Wetland and floodplain overlay zoning districts offer an opportunity to ensure protection of areas unsuitable for development and thereby retain open space immediately adjacent to lakes, rivers, and streams.

### **Acquisition**

Acquisition tools most relevant to the City's *system* include donation, eminent domain, fee title, conservation easements (non-fee title), private land conservation organizations, and tax delinquent property.

#### **Donation**

This acquisition tool is the least expensive means of acquiring park, outdoor recreation and open space land. Donations can be in the form of a lease or easement as well as outright title to land or property. The donor can use the value of the donation as a tax deduction.



### Eminent Domain

This acquisition tool entails the power of a governmental body to condemn private land for public purposes upon payment of just compensation. Eminent domain is used only as a last resort, when the land is considered essential for recreational purposes and after all other acquisition techniques have been exhausted.

### Fee Title

This acquisition tool entails the complete transfer of title and property rights through outright purchase of land, donation, or bargain sale.

### Non-Fee Title (Conservation Easements)

This acquisition tool entails a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and nonprofit organization or government agency, permanently limiting a property's use in order to protect its conservation values. A conservation easement can help protect water quality and natural resources and also allow for public use, depending on the agreement between the parties. Easements may be donated or purchased.

### Private Land Conservation Organizations

This acquisition tool entails private land conservation organizations purchasing land and holding it for a local government until adequate funding has been obtained.

### Tax Delinquent Property

This acquisition tool can be applied to properties where the owner has failed to pay property taxes for several years. Upon failure to pay, the property transfers to Dane County ownership. If the City wishes to purchase the property, Dane County Board approval of the sale would be required.

### Funding

Funding tools most relevant to the City's system include grants and City expenditures.

### Grants

- **Federal – Land and Water Conservation Fund:** This grant program was established by the U.S. Congress in 1965 to provide funding for the acquisition of land for park or open space preservation purposes, as well as development of outdoor recreation facilities. Congress allocates a certain amount of funding to the State of Wisconsin every year, with program funds administered by the WDNR. Applicants may be reimbursed for up to 50% of the total project costs.
- **Federal – Recreational Trails Program:** This grant program provides funds for maintenance, development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of land for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. The program is administered by the WDNR. Program funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in, or which further a specific goal of, a local, county or state trail plan, or on trails that are included or referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. Applicants may be reimbursed for up to 50% of the total project costs.
- **WDNR – Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program – Acquisition and Development of Local Parks:** This grant program provides funds for land or easement acquisition and development or renovation of local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes. Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis and may be reimbursed for up to 50% of the total project costs.
- **WDNR – Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program – Acquisition of Development Rights Grants:** This grant program provides funds for easement acquisition for protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis and may be reimbursed for up to 50% of the total project costs.

- **WDNR – Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program – Urban Rivers Grants:** This grant program provides funds for land acquisition adjacent to rivers flowing through urban or urbanizing areas, to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis and may be reimbursed for up to 50% of the total project costs.
- **WDNR – Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program – Urban Green Space Grants:** This grant program provides funds for land or easement acquisition in urban or urbanizing areas to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis and may be reimbursed for up to 50% of the total project costs.
- **Dane County – Conservation Fund Grant Program:** This grant program provides funds to non-profit organizations and local government agencies for acquisition of lands identified in the Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan, or for lands in buffer areas immediately adjacent to existing parkland. Standard grants are based on 25% of the project costs. If a WDNR Stewardship grant is involved, the grant award is based on the WDNR certified appraised value. Grant requests for more than the standard grant amount are considered, but cannot exceed 50% of the project costs.
- **Dane County – PARC & Ride Bicycle Grant Program:** This program provides grants to Dane County municipalities for expanding bike trail connectivity throughout Dane County. The 2015 Dane County Budget includes up to \$750,000 for eligible projects. Grants are awarded for capital projects that expand bike trail interconnectivity, create destination-oriented regional bike trails, and improve bike safety. Applicants may be reimbursed for up to 50% of the total project costs.

### City Expenditures

- **Capital Improvement Program (CIP):** This program is a five-year plan which identifies capital projects and equipment purchases, provides a planning schedule, and identifies options for financing the plan. The CIP also allows the City to monitor and implement specific *system* acquisition projects.
- **General Obligation Bond:** A general obligation bond is a bond secured by a state or local government's pledge to use legally available resources, including tax revenues, to repay bond holders. Funds are made available when a referendum or legislative act has authorized sale of such bonds. Often the debt is repaid by the levy of a property tax and secured by the local unit of government.
- **Revenue Bond:** Revenue bonds are issued by a public agency and paid back by means of revenue derived from operation of the resulting recreational projects, such as a golf course, swimming pool, or community center.
- **Special Tax:** A special tax levy, usually included in the property tax, allows local units of government to collect revenue to support outdoor recreational projects.
- **User Fee:** The City can charge fees for use of certain *system* facilities to help offset the cost of acquisition, development, and maintenance.

## Inter-governmental Cooperation

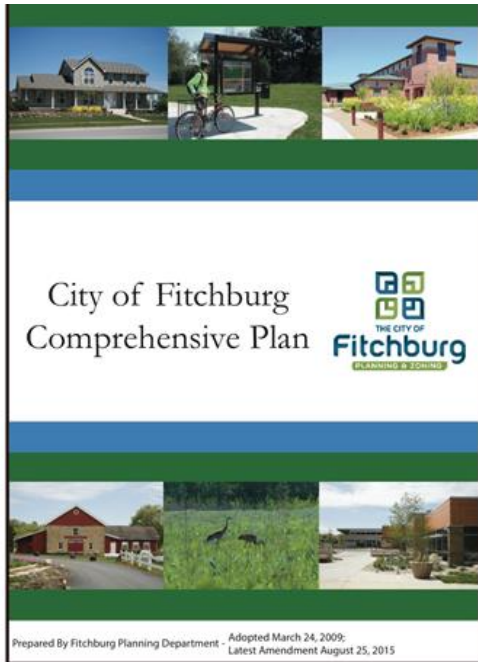
Various City, county, and state planning documents are relevant to implementation of this *Plan*. This *Plan*, where applicable, is consistent with these documents.

### City of Fitchburg – Bike and Pedestrian Plan (2008)

This plan serves to guide maintenance and enhancement of bicycle and pedestrian transportation options in the City, including sidewalks, trails, paths, and bicycle lanes/routes. This plan builds on previous recommendations from the 2000 plan and is scheduled for update in 2016.

### City of Fitchburg – Comprehensive Plan (2009)

This plan addresses the unique characteristics of Fitchburg and provides an overall vision and model for sustainable and regenerative growth in the City. The plan contains data and background information on numerous City resources and services, including land use; economic development; natural, cultural, and agricultural resources; housing; public facilities; utilities; and transportation. The plan also identifies goals, objectives, and policies that will help determine the City's use of resources and guide decisions for future land development and preservation. All City land use actions need to be consistent with this plan.



### City of Fitchburg – General Maintenance Plan for Public Properties (2009)

This plan sets forth general guidelines for maintenance of the City's public properties. The plan places properties into a particular category based on its location and use, the general public's expectations for the property, and necessary safety requirements. This plan is subject to change by the City Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department and Public Works Department.

### City of Fitchburg Neighborhood Plans

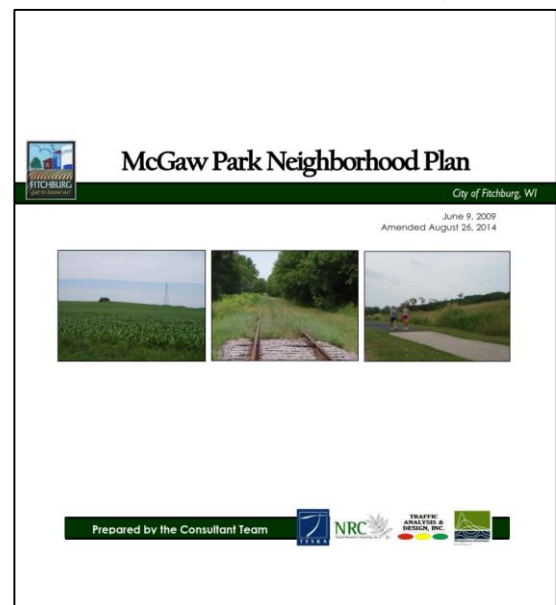
These plans analyze the natural environment, and identify desired future land use, transportation, stormwater management, and public utilities in designated future development areas in the City. These plans are intended to provide a rational basis for decision-making by the City when development is proposed in these areas. Additionally, Fitchburg incorporates completed neighborhood plans into its Comprehensive Plan. *System* concepts and recommendations identified in these plans should be consistent with this *Plan*.

### City of Fitchburg – Specific Management Plan for Public Properties within the City of Fitchburg (2014)

This plan provides for an organized assessment and management recommendations for the City's public lands, including management of undesirable plant species and planting of preferred species.

### Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan 2012-2017

This plan identifies significant cultural, historical, and natural resources that should be considered for possible protection, preservation, or restoration for a five-year





plan horizon. The plan also seeks to identify county-wide recreation needs and Dane County's role in providing facilities to meet anticipated demands.

### **Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2010-2015**

This plan classifies, measures, and ultimately provides for the preferences and needs of a statewide recreating public. This plan identifies essential issues that affect the future of Wisconsin outdoor recreation, presents goals and actions to aid recreation providers in developing an adequate supply of recreational lands and facilities, and promotes the natural resources conservation.

### **Partnerships**

Fitchburg has entered into a number of successful relationships and agreements with its municipal neighbors to provide residents with necessary high-quality services, in an efficient and economical manner. These services include public schools, transportation, utilities, and safety.



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## Park, Open Space, and Recreation System – *Issues*

This section of the report identifies Fitchburg *system* “issues”. Issues were identified from an analysis of the previously identified existing conditions. *System* issues are as follows:

- Future Park Uses;
- Future Park Sizes and Locations;
- Trails/Paths;
- New Recreation Programs and Services;
- User Groups;
- Upland Resources;
- Water Resources;
- Facility/Landscaping Maintenance and Improvement;
- Deficiencies;
- Past Uncompleted Initiatives;
- Governmental Partnerships;
- Financial Resources;

Further detail on these *system* issues is provided in the following:

### • Future Park Uses

#### • City Attributes and Park “Themes”

Fitchburg has various attributes that provide identity for the City, including bicycle/pedestrian trails/paths, natural resources, agriculture, and proximity to the City of Madison. Additionally, a handful of existing City parks have use “themes”, indicating a primary use at said parks, including sport fields at McGaw and winter activities at Nine Springs Golf Course.

**The City should explore accentuating these attributes and enhancing park “themes” at large, prominent City system properties** to enhance the City’s *system*, expand the user profile of the *system*, and attract users from throughout the region.

#### • Food/Drink Opportunities and Public/Private Partnerships

Social interaction through food and drink opportunities serve as a catalyst for social interaction and community building. Urban sociologist Ray Oldenburg, in his book *The Great Good Place: Cafes, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons, and Other Hangouts at the Heart of a Community* (1991), states that “third places, where people can gather, put aside the concerns of work and home, and hang out simply for the pleasures of good company and lively conversation, are the heart of a community’s social vitality.....”

Additionally, public/private partnerships, in which private entities provide for or manage a use that provides a community benefit, are becoming a more common undertaking on public park land. As an example, the Milwaukee County Park System has recently allowed development of traditional German bier gardens at various County parks. The gardens, which have been met with an overwhelmingly positive response, provide for various food, drink, music, and social interaction opportunities. Furthermore, feedback from this *Plan*’s stakeholder participation process indicated



**Bike “kiosk” at  
Dawley Bike Hub**  
Source: City of Fitchburg

*system* users are interested in the potential of food/drink opportunities at *system* properties.

**The City should explore food and drink opportunities that encourage social interaction, at designated *system* properties,** serving to expand the user profile of the *system* and attracting users from throughout the region.

- **Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens**

Urban agriculture, including community gardens, offers an opportunity for development of a local food system, social interaction, green neighborhoods, and outdoor recreation. Community gardening, typically organized by non-profit organizations or volunteers, utilize a parcel of land divided in to separate garden plots and gardened by individuals or groups. Various regional municipalities, including the City of Madison and Village of DeForest, currently allow community gardens on their parklands. Similarly, Fitchburg does allow community gardens in all of its zoning districts. Furthermore, the Gardens Network is a regional organization that provides various services for area community gardens and gardeners. This *Plan's* stakeholder participation process indicated *system* users are interested in the potential of community gardens at *system* properties.

The following identifies various benefits and case studies related to community gardens:



**Community gardener**  
Source: The Farley Center

- **Environmental benefits**

Urban agriculture can serve to contain sprawling development, promote healthy human activity,

and maximize the land's potential. Support from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors for urban agriculture provides incentives for citizens to play a role in activities that help preserve open spaces.

- **Case study:** Burlington, Vermont, situated at the northern boundary of the Northeastern Megalopolis, has seen the rapid conversion of farmland into boilerplate suburbs in recent years, characterized by low-density residential development and big box stores.

At the northern edge of Burlington is Intervale Center, a nonprofit organization begun in 1987 dedicated to "improving farm viability, promoting sustainable land use and engaging our community in the food system." This 350-acre swatch of land has withstood Metro Burlington's suburbanization, using and preserving its soil and water in the process. Additionally, Intervale's reputation has grown from an area of renovated greenspace into a major community center complete with agricultural activities, a farmer's market, and social gathering space, and also serving as a major resource for others to sell or exchange homegrown products. Intervale is emblematic of the iterative nature of successful urban agriculture projects: when urban agriculture is incorporated into the economic fabric of a community, it becomes attractive to everyone in the community to protect its land.

- **Health benefits**

Community gardens offer a huge array of health benefits for people at all stages of life. From a standpoint of physical well-being, community gardens are areas for leisure-time physical activity, and are often major community resources for fresh and affordable fruits and vegetables. Gardens provide a unique opportunity for children to learn healthy eating and physical activity habits at early stages of development, reflected in a strong negative association between



community gardening and childhood obesity. Research has also shown a positive relationship between gardening and respiratory health.

Similarly, gardening can be used as a vehicle for treatment and recovery outside of the clinical setting. People with hypertension and arthritis, in particular, have seen their health improve thanks to the physical and psychosocial benefits of gardening. Individuals under stress often report that gardening enhances their sense of purpose, autonomy, and ownership.

Combining all of the individual health benefits that gardening provides shows that gardening enhances overall community well-being. The opportunity for health behaviors that community gardens offer can help curtail preventable illnesses and clinical interventions. Communities with strong support for settings conducive to healthy behaviors are less burdened with significant health care costs than others.

Also at the community level, gardens have been shown to promote social capital and collective efficacy. These community health benefits speak to the strengthened social connections that community gardening can bring about. Communities with high levels of trust and interaction see less blight and less crime. As a result, the health benefits offered by community gardens are sustainable over long periods of time; once people begin to see the benefits their community garden offers, more people are more likely to take part in, and reap the health rewards of, community gardening in a neighborhood in which they feel safe and socially stimulated.

- **Case study:** The California Healthy Cities and Communities Program established community gardens in a multitude of California communities as one means of enhancing physical activity levels, nutrition, and food security. Although the program provided technical assistance, the nature of the individual programs was left entirely up to the individual community's discretion. West Hollywood, for instance, implemented a school gardening program, and contextualized its nutritional and physical activity education program around the garden. As a result, physical activity levels and consumption of fruits and vegetables increased in West Hollywood. The city of Loma Linda opened one large garden involving more than 40 gardeners, with eating habits improving here as well. In San Bernardino, the number of students who began gardening at home increased by more than 20% after the creation of a school gardening program similar to the one in West Hollywood.

- **Economic benefits**

Community gardening has myriad economic benefits as well. Many of these benefits are related to health benefits identified previously. Communities save money on health care costs through the nutritional, physical, and social benefits that urban agriculture offers. There is a correlation between a population's use of community gardens for their food and economic recessions. This trend is supported by research suggesting that individuals who look to gardens for much of their diet save hundreds of dollars per year on groceries.

Community gardens are also sources for education, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities. Because most of the cost associated with community gardens is in labor, and because gardens require less space than parks, the cost of developing and maintaining garden space is less than that of parkland.

As Fitchburg continues to develop, community gardens can also provide areas of refuge from the noise and commotion of urbanization. The benefits of publicly-supported gardens are seen by many as an indicator of livability, and consequently they tend to attract businesses. As an example, Epic Systems, Dane County's largest employer, has community gardens on its campus. Community gardening can support Fitchburg's urban agriculture *and* urban development goals.

Perhaps because they are stabilizing forces and focal points for community interaction, many credit community gardens with increasing property values. Studies from New York, Milwaukee, and Los Angeles, have affirmed that community gardens have positive effects on surrounding property values. In particular, New York generated almost half a billion dollars in tax revenue through community gardens over a 20-year period.

- **Case study:** In 2001, Boeing relocated its multibillion dollar corporate headquarters from Seattle to Chicago. The company cited abundant greenspace and livability as a major factor in its decision to relocate there, as opposed to Denver or Dallas, which were each competing for the company as well. Dallas decided that its model of designating as much of its downtown space as humanly possible for the physical location of businesses was not sustainable.

Within months of being passed over by Boeing, Dallas appointed a downtown revitalization taskforce, which determined a dramatic expansion of greenspace was needed. This vision was articulated in the city's Downtown Parks Masterplan, much of which has been brought to life in spaces like the Main Street Garden and Kelo Garden. With greenspace and livability at the core of Dallas's downtown revitalization model, major corporations such as AT&T, Comerica Bank, Tenet Healthcare have relocated to Dallas from other areas. Additionally, a flurry of tech startups have begun in the city over the past decade. Dallas shows that a philosophy of livability through greenspace can make cities hugely attractive to business.

**The City should explore locating urban agriculture elements, including community gardens, at designated City system properties,** serving to expand the user profile of the *system*, and attracting users from throughout the region.

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#### • Future Park Sizes and Locations

Fitchburg's *system* meets the majority of its standards. However, it should be noted that these standards do not specifically address quality of service, nor trends in population demographic or recreational use patterns.

Additional *system* properties will need to be acquired and developed as the City grows. The City's *Land Division Ordinance* requiring parkland dedication, or money in lieu of dedication, will continue to serve as the City's primary *system* property acquisition tool. This *Plan's* stakeholder participation process indicated *system* users more often use community or area parks, as neighborhood parks often do not provide for the recreational opportunities they seek. Similarly, small, isolated parks within individual subdivisions, as reflected in the City's neighborhood park category, generally tend to be expensive to maintain and do not serve large segments of the population. If only small, isolated acreages are available for parkland dedication, the City should consider monies in lieu of parkland, with said monies applied to enhance larger *system* properties. Similarly, future parkland should build off of existing parkland, so as to create larger parks. Finally, future park size and use profiles should reflect existing and projected recreational use patterns and trends, and population demographics.

The City may consider environmental corridors, buffers, flood plains, and other areas unsuitable for development for parkland dedication only under the following conditions:

- The areas are suitable for active outdoor recreation;
- The neighborhood in which the area is adequately served with developed active parkland;
- The areas have a priority environmental protection value;

**The City should explore revision of the City's *system* classification categories and standards, as**

well as **parkland dedication/private open space requirements**, to ensure optimal future *system* property and private open space location, distribution, size, and use.

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- **Trails/Paths**

The City's trail/path system, consisting of neighborhood shared-use paths, five major trails/paths, and the Dawley Bike Hub, provides identity to the City as well as recreation, economic development, and transportation opportunities. Furthermore, this *Plan's* stakeholder participation process indicated *system* users think the City's bicycle/pedestrian trails/paths are the feature that most makes the City unique.

**The City should explore development of a comprehensive City trail/path system**, serving to expand the user profile of the *system* and attracting users from throughout region.

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- **New Recreation Programs and Services**

Fitchburg's population has grown significantly over the recent past. Similarly, the City's population has become very diverse, consisting of a large diversity of incomes, as well as large segments of minorities, youths, and seniors.

**The City should explore opportunities for new recreation programs and services** to meet existing and future population demographics, and changing recreation demands and trends, serving to expand the user profile of the *system* and attracting users from throughout the region.



**Aldo Leopold Elementary School students**

Source: Asma Easa

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- **User Groups**

- **Youth**

**The City should consider development of additional play equipment, soccer fields, ball fields, winter recreation facilities (i.e. open skating, hockey, warming houses, and sledding hills), and a City-wide trail/path system**, given the City's large youth population. Additionally, the City should consider development of a **youth center**, possibly within a multi-use facility, to provide additional recreational opportunities.

- **Adults**

**The City should consider development of additional adult recreational facilities that reflect user demands and trends, including sport fields, ice skating facilities, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball courts, a City-wide trail system, and cross-country skiing opportunities.**

- **Elderly**

**The City should consider specific needs for elderly residents, including convenient parking and access to facilities, walking paths, and community gardens**, given the City's large senior population.

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- **Upland Resources**

Numerous forest, prairie and grassland natural areas are located on City *system* properties. **The City should maintain these properties according to the maintenance recommendations of the *Specific Management Plan for Public Properties within the City of Fitchburg* (2009).**



Additionally, forest and prairie restoration and management plans provide options for resource management based on an assessment of the site, including vegetation, habitat classification, topography, hydrology, and wildlife. These plans identify specific operations, a maintenance schedule, and resources for completion of a management prescription. The plans also set forth long range goals for site management and maintenance. Furthermore, feedback from this *Plan's* stakeholder participation process indicated *system* users are interested in the potential of an arboretum at a *system* property.



**Mickelson Woods**  
Source: City of Fitchburg

**The City should develop forest management plans for all City woodlots**, with Dawley Conservancy and Mickelson Woods receiving the highest priority. Additionally, **the City should develop prairie restoration plans for public prairies**, with the southwestern corner of Swan Creek Park and Harlan Hills Prairie receiving the highest priority.

## • Water Resources

### • Nine Springs E-Way

The City should continue to support Dane County and WDNR in land acquisitions in the Nine Springs E-Way, and explore opportunities for City acquisitions as well. Acquisition emphasis should be placed on completing the upland linkages, to ensure a continuous connection from Dunn's Marsh through the Nine Springs wetland complex.



**Nine Springs Creek**  
Source: City of Fitchburg

### • Environmental Corridors

As defined by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC), "Environmental corridors are continuous systems of open space in urban and urbanizing areas, that include environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources requiring protection from disturbance and development, and lands needed for open space and recreational use." Environmental corridors are based mainly on drainage-ways and stream channels, floodplains, wetlands, steep slopes, and other resource features, and are part of a countywide system of continuous open space corridors. Corridors can provide for a system of greenways, buffer areas, and other open space land to manage stormwater, provide trail linkages, and to buffer environmentally sensitive lands. Environmental corridors in the City are identified in maps provided by CARPC. Most lands in the corridors are undevelopable lowland areas.

**The City should continue to pursue acquisition of environmental corridors, when feasible, that link existing corridors.**

### • Wetlands and Floodplains

**The City should continue to pursue acquisition of wetlands and buffer zones, when feasible**, with the highest priority acquisitions being those wetlands identified in the Dane County Wetlands Inventory and those most likely to be negatively impacted by a development.

- **Shoreland**

Vegetated buffers along shorelands may slow habitat fragmentation or perhaps even allow for re-establishment of a connected natural landscape. Current state standards for shoreland protection require structures to be set back at least 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark of navigable waters.

**The City should continue to utilize a buffer of 300 feet, when feasible, to protect and enhance lakes and streams.**

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- **Facility/Landscaping Maintenance and Improvement**

- **Access**

Streets, sidewalks, trails/paths, and bicycle lanes/routes provide safe and convenient access to the City's *system*. Similarly, access to the City's *system* must be safe and convenient to those with special needs, including physical disabilities and handicaps, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1992). **The City should continue to enhance access to its *system* via streets, sidewalks, trails/paths, and bicycle lanes/routes, and for those with special needs.**

- **Basketball Courts**

The City has adequate basketball courts to meet current demand. **The City should continue to monitor the need for new courts, and maintenance of existing courts.**

- **Cross-Country Skiing**

**The City should consider restoring trails in McGaw Park, and developing trails at Nine Springs Golf Course and along greenway areas in McKee Farms Park. The City should continue to monitor the need for new trail development.**

- **Ice Skating**

The City has adequate ice skating rinks to meet current demand. **The City should continue to monitor the need for future ice skating rinks.**

- **Golf**

The City has adequate golf facilities to meet current demand. **The City should continue to monitor the need for new golf facilities.**

- **Landscaping**

The City requires landscaping, including plantings, walkways, and benches, when new *system* properties are developed, or to enhance existing *system* properties. **The City should consider a comprehensive approach to landscaping *system* properties that takes advantage of property attributes and expands the user profile of the *system*.**

- **New Specialized Facilities**

Recreation uses that have increased in popularity in recent years include gardening, disc golf, dog parks, indoor ice rinks, swimming pools, roller skating areas, skateboard parks, and BMX bicycle tracks. **The City should continue to monitor the demand for new specialized facilities to accommodate these uses in its *system*.**

- **Play Equipment**

The City should continue to install ADA-accessible play equipment in future *system* parks, with equipment replaced as it becomes obsolete and undesirable. **The City should continue to monitor the need for play equipment maintenance.**

- **Shelters and Restrooms**

The City has adequate shelter/restroom facilities to meet current demand. Future shelters with restrooms, which can be reserved for public gatherings, should be considered in larger area or community parks, and located in such a way as to minimally impact residential areas. Smaller shelters with no restrooms should be considered in neighborhood parks, subject to available funding. **The City should continue to monitor the need for new shelters or existing shelter maintenance/repair.**



*Play equipment and shelter at Wildwood Park*

*Source: City of Fitchburg*

- **Soccer**

The City has an adequate supply of soccer fields to meet current demand. **The City should continue to monitor the need for new fields.**

- **Softball/Baseball**

The City has adequate softball/baseball fields to meet current demand. **The City should continue to monitor the need for new fields, and maintenance of existing fields.**

- **Tennis**

The City has adequate tennis courts to meet current demand. **The City should continue to monitor the need for new courts, and maintenance of existing courts.**

- **Volleyball**

The City has adequate volleyball facilities to meet current demand. **The City should continue to monitor the need for new volleyball facilities.**

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- **Deficiencies**

Fitchburg has an adequate amount of total parkland, and associated recreation facilities, to serve its present population, in accordance with *system* assessment tools currently utilized by the City. However, there are specific residential areas in the City that are deficient in parkland.

Additionally, various neighborhoods in the City, including the a North Fish Hatchery Road neighborhood and Allied Drive neighborhood in the City's northwest portion, have unique attributes including large youth populations, lower incomes, and public health risks that warrant special attention from a *system* standpoint.

Similarly, due in part to the lack of public school facilities in the City, winter and indoor recreational programs/services in the City are limited.

**The City should explore development of facilities and associated staff, in partnership with other interested parties, to better address the aforementioned *system* and neighborhood needs.**

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- **Past Uncompleted Initiatives – Conceptual Park and Open Space Proposal, Moraine Edge Park, and Heritage Circle Route**

The following identifies three past uncompleted *system* initiatives, the *Conceptual Park and Open Space Proposal* (2010), Moraine Edge Park, and the Heritage Circle Route.

The *Conceptual Park and Open Space Proposal* (hereafter “*Proposal*”) began in 2007 as a comprehensive study of Fitchburg’s natural, historical, and cultural resources. The *Proposal*’s purpose and intent was to identify a system of linked parks and open space that protect Fitchburg’s natural areas and create a buffer between current and future development, ultimately recommending areas to be considered for future parks/recreation facilities and protected open space. Lands identified in the *Proposal* would only be acquired from those landowners who wish to sell or donate land or land rights. Some designated areas in the *Proposal* could be protected through conservation easement, while remaining in private ownership. Map 4 on the following page identifies the *Proposal* in further detail.

Areas of higher priority for *Proposal* implementation were designated as follows:

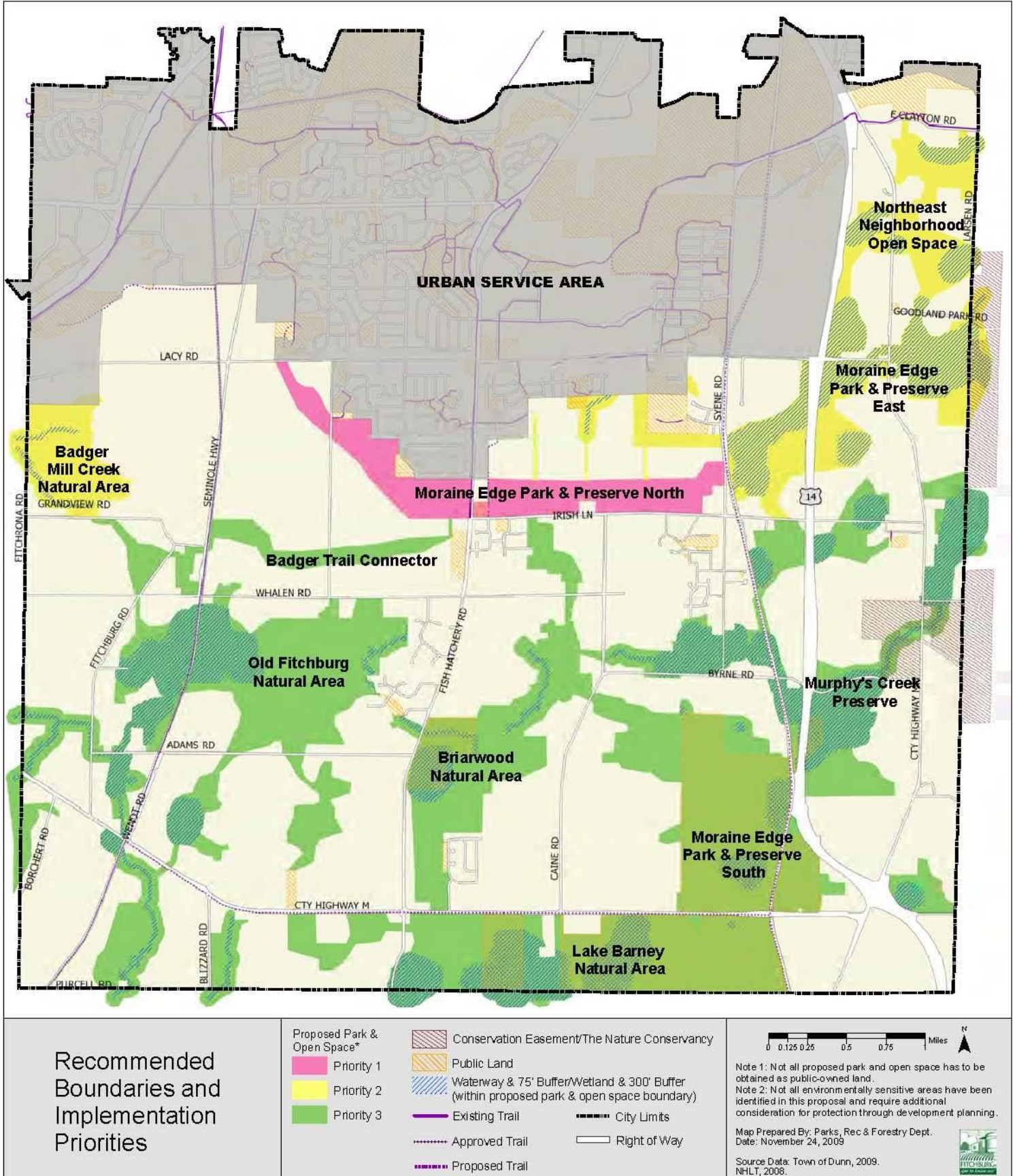
- Areas most feasible for expansion of the City’s recreational facilities will receive higher priority in terms of land acquisition and park planning efforts;
- Future urban growth areas, especially those of near-term development, will become a priority in terms of further study, documentation of resources within the study area, and integration of the *Proposal* with the neighborhood planning process;

The main feature of the *Proposal* was the creation of a greenbelt buffer, known as Moraine Edge Park and Preserve North, at the southern boundary of the City’s urban service area. This proposed park, extending from Savannah Oaks Middle School to Syene Road, has been identified by the Parks Commission as the highest acquisition priority for implementation of the *Proposal*. The purpose of the park is to meet the recreational needs of the community, protect existing environmental resources, and provide agricultural education opportunities. The park is also intended to serve as an open space buffer from existing development, much like the Nine Springs E-Way. Moraine Edge Park and Preserve North could also offer both active and passive recreational opportunities such as bike trails, nature trails, picnic areas, and open space for general play and social gatherings.

The *Proposal* also identifies other major areas of importance due to their concentration of environmental and historical resources. These areas include Badger Mill Creek Natural Area, Old Fitchburg Natural Area, Briarwood Natural Area, Murphy’s Creek Preserve, Moraine Edge Park and Preserve East, and the Badger Trail Connector. In drafting the boundaries for proposed park and open space, these larger open space complexes were connected to each other to form one extensive citywide open space system that could allow for human, animal, and plant mobility.

In 2009, the Common Council approved Resolution R-84-08, acknowledging the *Proposal* and Moraine Edge Park North as the priority area for acquisition. At the time of this *Plan*’s adoption, funding has not been allocated to implement any aspect of the *Proposal*. The timeline for funding may change again since the City reviews its CIP on an annual basis. The Common Council has asked for further study of major planning issues such as project cost. As such, future planning tasks should include site analysis, cost assessment, and discussions with City commission/committees, staff, and landowners, and other public participation activities.

**Map 4: Fitchburg Conceptual Park and Open Space Proposal**





In 2000, Fitchburg's City Planner, Tom Hovel, proposed a concept for a 19-mile path called the Heritage Circle Route, described as a "major linear recreation path linkage that would provide a circular recreation path around the City of Fitchburg." The Route would give users an opportunity to pass through the varied cultural and natural terrain of Fitchburg. The City's circular symbolic seal, with its fish, oak trees, farms, industry and homes serves as a conceptual representation of the Route.

The proposed Route consists of four segments. The north segment would utilize the Capital City State Trail, the west segment the Badger State Trail, and the east segment within, or adjacent to, the former Chicago and Northwestern Railroad line. The south segment would require land acquisition, as it parallels County Highway M, until meeting the west segment. The Route concept recognizes the challenges that will need to be addressed, "given the desire and need to maintain rail presence" through the corridor and the adjacent land uses, including the Oakhill Correctional Institution.

The Route would traverse many natural features including Dunn's Marsh, the Nine Springs E-Way, drumlins, a terminal moraine and other glacial features, oak openings, the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, and trumpeter swan nesting areas. Cultural features on the Route include Fitchburg's first farm, various historic settlements, and the Nevin Fish Hatchery, as well as many rural and urban neighborhoods. The Route also runs in close proximity to four locations on the National Register of Historic Places, including the McCoy House, Haight Farmstead, the former Wisconsin Industrial School for Girls (now Oakhill Correctional Institution) and Fox Hall.

The City has recently begun various initiatives on the Badger State Trail segment of the Heritage Circle Route, designated as the Fitchburg Agriculture Route (FAR). The City has installed interpretive signs along the FAR, identifying past and present agricultural activities in the area. Additionally, the City is in the process of developing the *Fitchburg Agriculture Route (FAR) – Concept Analysis* to explore development of the FAR as a "local food corridor", consisting of a variety of agricultural enterprises and agritourism opportunities.



***The City's Agriculture Past and Present Bike Tour on the FAR***

*Source: City of Fitchburg*

**The City should continue to explore opportunities to implement the *Proposal*, and development of Moraine Edge Park and the Heritage Circle Route.**

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### • **Governmental Partnerships**

Various other governmental entities own prominent outdoor recreational lands in the City, including the Nine Springs E-Way owned and managed by Dane County and WDNR, and the Nevin State Fish Hatchery owned and managed by the WDNR.

**The City should explore strengthening partnerships with the aforementioned governmental entities**, so as to expand the user profile of the *system*, attract users from throughout the region, and provide *system* programs/services in an efficient and economical manner.

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### • **Financial Resources**

Various funding resources are available to the City to maintain and enhance its *system*, including "non-City" resources/options such as Dane County grants, and private sponsorship and advertising at designated *system* sites.

**The City should explore opportunities to utilize "non-City" funding resources/options** to maintain and enhance its *system*.

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## Appendix A

### Public Opinion Survey



#### CITY OF FITCHBURG SURVEY PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Please drop off your completed survey within the designated drop box located inside the main entrance of Fitchburg City Hall.  
Please see end of survey for more details.

The following survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

The City of Fitchburg is updating its Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Plan.  
Your survey input will help ensure that the City's parks, open space, and recreation areas will continue to meet the needs of City residents and visitors.  
This survey can also be completed online at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fitchburgparkplansurvey>

Thank you for your time and effort!

If you would like further information on the Plan survey, please contact:

Scott Endl  
Director of Parks, Recreation, and Urban Forestry  
Phone: (608) 270-4288 Email: [Scott.Endl@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:Scott.Endl@fitchburgwi.gov)



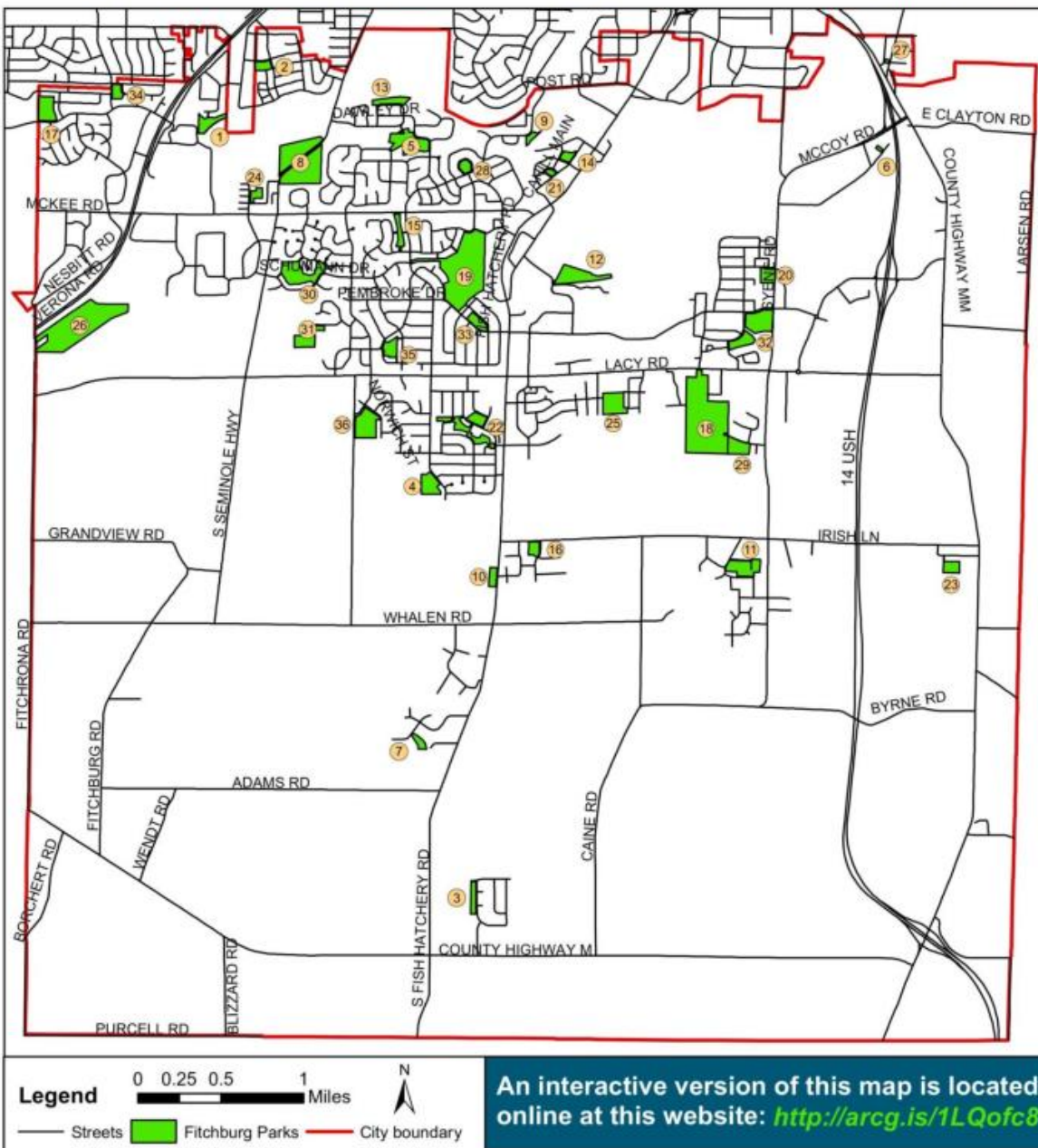
#### **I. GENERAL**

1. Please identify the **top five** outdoor recreational uses or activities that you or your family participates in most often at a City of Fitchburg park.

- a. ☐ Basketball
- b. ☐ Biking
- c. ☐ Disc golf
- d. ☐ Golf
- e. ☐ "Nature" activities (Bird watching, photography, etc.)
- f. ☐ Other team sports (Baseball/softball, lacrosse, soccer, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, etc.)
- g. ☐ Play/exercise equipment
- h. ☐ Socializing (Picnicking, eating, drinking, festivals/concerts, etc.)
- i. ☐ Solitude activities (Sitting, reading, "people-watching", etc.)
- j. ☐ Tennis/pickleball
- k. ☐ Walking/hiking/jogging
- l. ☐ Water activities (Splash pad, etc.)
- m. ☐ Winter activities (Ice-skating, hockey, sledding, cross country skiing, etc.)
- n. ☐ Other (Please identify.): \_\_\_\_\_

2. What City of Fitchburg park do you live closest to? **Please check only one park.**

- |                       |                          |                         |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Arrowhead          | 10. Gorman Wayside       | 19. McKee Farms         | 28. Rosecommons    |
| 2. Belmar Hills       | 11. Greenfield           | 20. Nannyberry          | 29. S. Johnson     |
| 3. Briarwood          | 12. Gunflint Trail       | 21. Nevin Village Green | 30. Seminole Glen  |
| 4. Byrne              | 13. Harlan Hills Prairie | 22. Oak Meadow          | 31. Stoner Prairie |
| 5. Chicory Meadows    | 14. Hatchery Hills       | 23. Perry J. Schappe    | 32. Swan Creek     |
| 6. Clayton            | 15. Hawk Ridge           | 24. Pine Ridge          | 33. Tower Hill     |
| 7. Country Vineyard   | 16. Hillside Heights     | 25. Quarry Hill         | 34. Western Hills  |
| 8. Dawley Conservancy | 17. Huegel-Jamestown     | 26. Quarry Ridge        | 35. Wildwood       |
| 9. Fitchburg Springs  | 18. McGaw                | 27. Rimrock             | 36. Wildwood South |





3. Do you use another City of Fitchburg park more often than the one you identified in Question 2.?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If you answered "Yes", please identify the park that you use more often by the **number on the previous page**. \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered "Yes", please identify why you don't use the park that you live closest to more often. **Please check all that apply.**

- a. \_\_\_ The park does not have the recreational uses or facilities that I normally use.
- b. \_\_\_ The park does not feel welcoming.
- c. \_\_\_ Unsure
- d. \_\_\_ Other (Please identify.): \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered "No", please proceed to Question 6.

4. What do you do at the park identified in Question 3.? **Please check all that apply.**

- a. \_\_\_ Basketball
- b. \_\_\_ Biking
- c. \_\_\_ Disc golf
- d. \_\_\_ Golf
- e. \_\_\_ "Nature" activities (Bird watching, photography, etc.)
- f. \_\_\_ Other team sports (Baseball/softball, lacrosse, soccer, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, etc.)
- g. \_\_\_ Play/exercise equipment
- h. \_\_\_ Socializing (Picnicking, eating, drinking, festivals/concerts, etc.)
- i. \_\_\_ Solitude activities (Sitting, reading, "people-watching", etc.)
- j. \_\_\_ Tennis/pickleball
- k. \_\_\_ Walking/hiking/jogging
- l. \_\_\_ Water activities (Swimming, splash pad, etc.)
- m. \_\_\_ Winter activities (Ice-skating, hockey, sledding, cross country skiing, etc.)
- n. \_\_\_ Other (Please identify.): \_\_\_\_\_

5. How close do you live to the park identified in Question 3.?

- a. \_\_\_ Less than a five minute walk
- b. \_\_\_ Between a five and fifteen minute walk
- c. \_\_\_ Greater than a fifteen minute walk
- d. \_\_\_ Unsure



6. The City of Fitchburg has many distinct features that make it unique and a desirable place to live. How important are the following features in making Fitchburg a unique and a desirable place to live?

	Not Important	Important	Very Important	Unsure
a. Agricultural lands				
b. Being close to the City of Madison				
c. Biking/walking trails and paths				
d. Woodlots, wetlands, and waterways (Nine Springs E-Way, Jenni and Kyle Preserve, McGaw Park woodland etc.)				
e. Other (Please identify.) _____ _____				

7. How important to you are the following experiences when visiting a park?

	Not Important	Important	Very Important	Unsure
a. Exercise				
b. Socializing/interacting with other people				
c. Solitude				

8. Which of the following uses would you like to see in a City of Fitchburg park? **Please check all that apply.**

- a. ☐ Amphitheaters/pavilions (Places for festivals, concerts, movie nights, etc.)
- b. ☐ Arboretum (A tree "garden" with paths, benches, and environmental education signs)
- c. ☐ Community gardens (Places for people to garden and grow plants/vegetables)
- d. ☐ Disc golf
- e. ☐ Dog park
- f. ☐ Edible landscapes (Fruit trees, etc. available for public "picking")
- g. ☐ Farmers market
- h. ☐ Food/drink opportunities (Places to get a sandwich, ice-cream, coffee, beer/wine, etc.)
- i. ☐ Interpretive nature trails (Trails with environmental education signs)
- j. ☐ Lawn games (Bocce ball, shuffleboard, etc.)
- k. ☐ Landscaped gardens (Ornamental trees and plants with paths, benches, and environmental education signs)
- l. ☐ Nature center (A building/lands devoted to environmental education and activities)
- m. ☐ Pickleball (A game similar to tennis using smaller rackets and balls)
- n. ☐ Single sport complex (Multiple facilities devoted to one sport, i.e. baseball fields, soccer fields, etc.)
- o. ☐ Skateboard park
- p. ☐ "Special" need play/exercise equipment (Designed for handicapped users, etc.)
- q. ☐ Other (Please identify.): \_\_\_\_\_

## Park Amenities

[illegible]





## Appendix C

### Recreational Programs and Services – 2014

#### Recreation Programs & Financials - Fall 2014

	Participants	Revenue	Direct Expenses	% of Recovery
<b>Contractual Programs</b>				
Youth Dance	36	\$1,953.50	\$1,562.80	125%
Adult Volleyball Int-Low Power	11	\$292.00	\$233.60	125%
Adult Dance Class	6	\$390.00	\$312.00	125%
Advanced Skills Basketball	11	\$800.00	\$640.00	125%
Burn Fitness (2)	43	\$2,775.00	\$2,220.00	125%
Everyday Yoga	10	\$711.00	\$568.80	125%
Hwa Rang Do Tigers	8	\$280.00	\$224.00	125%
Hwa Rang Do	7	\$355.00	\$284.00	125%
McGaw Flea Market	10	\$850.75	\$680.60	125%
Pilates	11	\$660.00	\$528.00	125%
Pilates Yoga Fusion	23	\$1,380.00	\$1,104.00	125%
Sport Foundations - Basketball Camp	15	\$750.00	\$600.00	125%
Henna Art	5	\$100.00	\$80.00	125%
Open Volleyball	32	\$1,140.00	\$912.00	125%
Spanish for Preschoolers	14	\$812.00	\$649.60	125%
Zumba	33 (86 Drop-ins)	\$2,676.00	\$2,140.80	125%
	242			
<b>Recreation Programs</b>				
NFL Flag Football	167	\$10,350.00	\$7,959.00	130%
Youth Soccer	53	\$1,645.00	\$1,148.00	143%
Adult Volleyball Leagues	24 Teams	\$5,750.00	\$3,276.00	176%
Instructional Sports	59	\$1,085.00	\$390.00	278%
NFL Punt, Pass, & Kick	63	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%

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## Recreation Programs & Financials - Winter 2014

	Participants	Revenue	Direct Expenses	% of Recovery
<b>Contractual Programs</b>				
Burn Fitness	25	\$2,845.00	\$2,276.00	125%
Youth Dance	77	\$4,326.00	\$3,460.80	125%
Bellydance	2	\$120.00	\$96.00	125%
Adult Dance	9	\$585.00	\$468.00	125%
LEGO Classes	16	\$1,780.00	\$1,424.00	125%
Open Basketball	12	\$448.00	\$358.40	125%
Open Volleyball - Int/Low Power	9	\$532.00	\$425.60	125%
Hatha Yoga Fusion	10	\$555.00	\$444.00	125%
Hwa Rang Do Tigers	5	\$175.00	\$140.00	125%
Hwa Rang Do	7	\$435.00	\$348.00	125%
Everyday Yoga	6	\$60.00	\$48.00	125%
Nurtured Heart	6	\$450.00	\$360.00	125%
Relax & Release	3	\$45.00	\$36.00	125%
Pilates	6	\$360.00	\$288.00	125%
Pilates Yoga Fusion	12	\$720.00	\$576.00	125%
Coed Open Volleyball	11	\$852.00	\$618.60	125%
Youth Volleyball	62	\$4,695.50	\$3,844.23	122%
Spanish for Preschoolers	27	\$1,557.00	\$1,245.60	125%
Zumba	22 (52 Drop-ins)	\$1,752.00	\$1,401.60	125%
Holiday Basketball Camp	37	\$915.00	\$732.00	125%
<b>Recreation Programs</b>				
Ski Trip - Devil's Head	79	\$2,980.00	\$2,762.00	108%
Ski Trip - Tyrol Basin	63	\$2,240.00	\$2,236.00	100%
Ski Trip - Cascade	109	\$4,230.00	\$3,258.38	130%
Instructional Basketball (3)	64	\$1,199.00	\$390.00	307%
Fly Tying Class	48	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Youth Basketball	205	\$8,409.75	\$5,899.00	143%
Daddy-Daughter Formal	129	\$2,431.00	\$1,724.00	141%
Holiday Party	275	\$0.00	\$625.00	



## Recreation Programs & Financials - Spring 2014

	Participants	Revenue	Direct Expenses	% of Recovery
<b>Contractual Programs</b>				
Basketball Shooting Camps	39	\$1,365.00	\$1,092.00	125%
Hatha Yoga Fusion	6	\$495.00	\$396.00	125%
Adult Open Basketball	6	\$135.00	\$108.00	125%
Adult Coed Int-Low Power Volleyball	42	\$210.00	\$168.00	125%
Bellydance	2	\$120.00	\$96.00	125%
Chess Tournament	51	\$1,985.00	\$1,588.00	125%
Freezer Meal Workshop	5	\$315.80	\$252.64	125%
Hwa Rang Do Tigers	5	\$175.00	\$140.00	125%
Hwa Rang Do	5	\$225.00	\$180.00	125%
McGaw Flea Market	10	\$1,020.00	\$816.00	125%
Pilates	6	\$360.00	\$288.00	125%
Pilates Yoga Fusion	10	\$600.00	\$480.00	125%
Burn Fitness	14	\$920.00	\$736.00	125%
Relax & Release	5	\$75.00	\$60.00	125%
Volleyball Techniques	6	\$300.00	\$240.00	125%
Youth Volleyball	66	\$3,403.00	\$2,556.80	112%
Spanish for Preschoolers	15	\$870.00	\$696.00	125%
Zumba	15 (77 Drop-ins)	\$1,482.00	\$1,185.60	125%
<b>Recreation Programs</b>				
Adult Volleyball Leagues (3)	24 Teams	\$5,750.00	\$3,360.00	171%
Youth Soccer (3)	122	\$3,603.75	\$1,632.35	221%

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## Recreation Programs & Financials - Summer 2014

	Participants	Revenue	Direct Expenses	% of Recovery
<b>Contractual Programs</b>				
Babysitter Training	24	\$2,430.00	\$2,140.00	114%
Basic Aid Training	12	\$0.00	\$0.00	-
Art Cart	23	\$0.00	\$0.00	-
Youth Lacrosse Camp	47	\$1,410.00	\$1,128.00	125%
Dance	6	\$152.00	\$121.60	125%
Hatha Yoga Fusion	13	\$460.00	\$368.00	125%
Jiu-Jitsu	2	\$160.00	\$128.00	125%
Hwa Rang Do Tigers	3	\$135.00	\$108.00	125%
Hwa Rang Do	6	\$270.00	\$216.00	125%
Junior Engineering	6	\$1,020.00	\$816.00	125%
Open Lacrosse	50	\$1,725.00	\$1,536.90	112%
LEGO Robotics	7	\$1,292.00	\$1,033.60	125%
McGaw Flea Market	12	\$1,805.00	\$1,444.00	125%
Pilates Yoga Fusion	10	\$600.00	\$480.00	125%
Burn Fitness	15	\$1,879.00	\$1,503.20	125%
Sport Foundation Camps	85	\$8,998.75	\$7,199.00	125%
Henna Art	5	\$100.00	\$80.00	125%
Youth Volleyball	51	\$2,505.00	\$2,053.29	122%
Zumba	10 (119 Drop-ins)	\$1,359.00	\$1,087.20	125%
<b>Recreation Programs</b>				
Youth Baseball / Softball	206	\$6,409.00	\$4,231.98	151%
Adventure Camps	140	\$2,900.00	***	
Tennis	137	\$4,201.00	***	
Archery	36	\$1,355.00	***	
Pre-K Playground	10	\$250.00	***	
Half Day Camps	92	\$4,605.00	***	
Meet me @ the Park	76	\$216.00	***	
Instructional Sports	81	\$1,998.75	***	
Dodgeball	42	\$1,245.00	***	
Arts & Crafts	19	\$572.50	***	
Pack N the Park	300	\$0.00	\$1,068.16	

\*\*\* Summer Exp = \$1,690.45

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## Appendix D

### Community Garden on Parkland – Selection Criteria

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City of Fitchburg Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, and Planning and Zoning, Department staff identified 14 City park sites (developed and undeveloped) that could feasibly have community gardens located on them. City staff then utilized the following criteria to score and rank the sites for community garden suitability:

#### Site Criteria

1. Lack of Potential Neighborhood "Resistance"
2. Surrounding Land Use Dynamic (i.e. Multi-family/small-lot residences, user businesses etc.)
3. Surrounding Socio-Economic Demographic (i.e. Food deserts, high obesity rates, etc.)
4. Opportunities for Programming (i.e. Classes, etc.)
5. Walkable/Bikable Location
6. Adequate Sun
7. Water
8. Parking
9. Restrooms
10. Adequate Soil
11. Infrastructure (i.e. Storage, etc.)

#### Stakeholder Criteria

1. Public Meeting Support
2. Public Opinion Survey Support
3. Neighborhood Assistance Offer

Six City park sites have been identified as suitable for community garden, per the aforementioned criteria. These sites are identified in Section III – Action Items, *City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan: 2015 – 2020*.



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## Appendix E

### Land Division Ordinance

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#### CHAPTER 15 LAND DIVISION ORDINANCE

*(The following are excerpts from Chapter 15)*

##### 15.01 INTRODUCTION

(1) Authority. These regulations are adopted under the authority granted by Sections 62.11(5), 62.23(6) and (7) and 236.45 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

(2) Purpose. The purpose of the ordinance is to regulate and control the division, and development of land within the corporate limits of the City in order to promote the public health, safety, morals, prosperity, aesthetics and general welfare of the community; to lessen congestion in the streets and highways; to further the orderly layout and appropriate use of land; to secure safety from fire, panic and other dangers; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to facilitate adequate provision for transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public requirements; to facilitate the division of larger tracts into smaller parcels of land; to ensure adequate legal description and proper survey monumentation of subdivided land; to provide for the administration and enforcement of this ordinance; and to provide penalties for its violation.

(3) Abrogation and Greater Restrictions. This ordinance is not intended to repeal, abrogate, annul, impair, or interfere with any existing easements, covenants, agreements, rules, regulations or permits previously adopted or issued pursuant to laws. However, where this ordinance imposes greater restrictions, the provisions of this ordinance shall govern.

(4) Interpretation. In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this ordinance shall be held to be minimum requirements and shall be liberally construed in favor of the City and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other power granted by the Wisconsin Statutes.

(5) Common Council. The authority to approve or object to preliminary plats, final plats and certified surveys is, to the extent necessary to implement the provisions of this ordinance, delegated to the common council upon recommendation from the Plan Commission.

(6) Severability. The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any provision of the ordinance is invalid, or if its application to any person or circumstance is invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

(7) Title. This ordinance shall be known as, referred to, and cited as the "Land Division Ordinance."

(8) Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect on the day after its publication as provided by law.

##### 15.02 GENERAL PROVISIONS

(4) Dedication and Reservation of Land.

(A) Dedication of Public Ways. Whenever a tract of land being divided or subdivided embraces all or

any part of street, drainageway or other public way which has been designated in the Fitchburg General Land Use Plan, park plan, or the official City map, said public way shall be made a part of the plat or survey map and dedicated by the subdivider in the locations and dimensions indicated on said plan or map.

(B) Dedication of Parks, Playgrounds, Recreation and Open Spaces. (85-O-19)

1. The subdivider/developer shall dedicate sufficient land area to provide adequate park, playground, recreation and open space to meet the needs to be created by and to be provided for the land development, land division or subdivision. At least 2,900 square feet of land shall be dedicated for each proposed residential dwelling unit within the land development, division, subdivision or comprehensive development. Where a definite commitment is made to the City of the subdivider/developer with respect to the number of dwelling units to be constructed on any parcel of land which has a zoning classification that permits multi-family use, the dedication shall be based on that number. Where no such commitment exists, the dedication shall be based upon the maximum number of dwelling units which the zoning classification of the parcel will permit.
2. Where, in the sole discretion of the Park Commission, there is no land suitable for parks within the proposed development area, land division or subdivision, the dedication of land required by Section 15.02(4)(B)1 is not feasible, the dedication of land would not be compatible with the City Master Plan, or the Park Commission determines that a cash contribution will better serve the public interest, the Park Commission may require the subdivider/developer to pay a fee in lieu of making the required land dedication.
3. The amount of any fee imposed pursuant to Section 15.02(4)(B) shall be a per dwelling unit fee as set forth in the Annual Budget Appendix Fee Schedule. (02-O-21)
4. The Park Commission may, in its sole discretion, permit the subdivider/developer to satisfy the requirement of Section 15.02(4)(B)1 by combining a land dedication with a fee payment.
5. The City shall place any fee collected pursuant to the provisions of this section in a separate account to be used for land acquisition and development of adequate park, playground, recreation and open space to meet the needs created by the land development, land division or subdivision.
6. Payment of land dedication fees shall be in a lump sum prior to the recording of a final plat or certified survey map or prior to the issuance of any building permit for a development where no plat or certified survey map is involved. Where no land division is involved the Park Commission may permit the developer to substitute land dedication for fees.

(C) Reservation of Public Sites and Open Spaces. In designing a land division, subdivision or comprehensive development, due consideration shall be given to the reservation of suitable sites of adequate area for future schools, parks, playgrounds, drainageways, and other public purposes. In the location of such, consideration shall be given to the preservation of scenic and historic sites, stands for fine trees, marshes, lakes and ponds, water courses, watersheds, and ravines. The subdivider may be required to reserve such school, park, recreation and public use areas for a period not to exceed two (2) years for acquisition by the City, or in the case of school areas by the school district, at undeveloped land costs.

## 15.09 REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS

### (9) Street Frontage for Dedicated Parkland.

(A) Street frontage for dedicated parklands shall be provided and paid for by the developer or subdivider in the amount of 150 lineal feet of frontage or in accord with the following, whichever is greater.

1. For development projects or land divisions of less than 80 dwelling units, the developer or subdivider shall provide frontage in accord with the following table:

Single Family Residential - 6.0 lineal feet per dwelling unit  
Two-Family Residential - 3.0 lineal feet per dwelling unit  
Multi-Family - .75 lineal feet per dwelling unit

2. For development projects or land divisions of 80 or more dwelling units, lineal street frontage shall be provided in accord with the following:

Single Family: Square root of the square footage required to be dedicated.  
Two-Family: Square root of the square footage required to be dedicated with this factor multiplied by .50.  
Multi-Family: Square root of the square footage required to be dedicated with this factor then multiplied by .13.

(B) Where the Park Commission decides that the full frontage is not required, or where total or partial fees-in-lieu of dedication are accepted, the developer or subdivider shall pay a fee-in-lieu of required frontage in accord with the provisions of s. 15.15(5) of this code.

(C) In calculating the required frontage for multi-family residential projects the maximum number of two bedroom units allowed under the zoning ordinance shall be used unless a different number is committed to by agreement with the City or by City approved deed restriction.

#### 15.15 FEES

##### (4) Parkland Improvement Fees.

(A) The developer or subdivider shall pay prior to signing the final plat or survey, or in the case of a multi-family housing development, the developer shall pay, prior to issuance of a zoning permit a parkland improvement fee as set forth in the Annual Budget Appendix Fee Schedule. The collected fees shall be utilized to construct park facilities for the plat, survey or development. The Park Commission shall give priority to establishing the proper neighborhood park facilities according to the Plan for Parks and Open Spaces and the generally accepted standards prior to expenditure for facilities in area or community parks. The collected fee shall go into special segregated funds.

(02-O-21)

(B) In a neighborhood park the facilities shall be substantially constructed to the extent practicable within 1 year of acceptance of improvements of the final phase of the plat, or survey, or issuance of a Certificate of Completion of a multi-family project's last building. However, facilities adequate to serve the developments growing population shall be constructed within 3 years of the acceptance date of the first phase of improvements or the first Certificate of Completion.

(C) In the case of expenditures for area and community parks the money shall be expended within 6 years of acceptance of improvements of the final phase of the plat, or survey, or issuance of a Certificate of Completion of a multi-family project's last building on those facilities that are proper for area and community parks. The funds shall not be expended on neighborhood park facilities in an area or community park, unless such area or community park serves the developments



neighborhood park needs.

(D) Facility as used in s. 15.15(4). Facilities as used in this section means recreational equipment and structures, and the related support service infrastructure; it also includes grading, seeding and landscaping.

(E) Parkland Improvement Fee Schedule.

Single Family residential - as set forth in the Annual Budget Appendix Fee Schedule (02-O-21)

Two-Family residential - as set forth in the Annual Budget Appendix Fee Schedule (02-O-21)

Multi-Family residential - as set forth in the Annual Budget Appendix Fee Schedule (02-O-21)

The fee shall be adjusted as set forth in the Annual Budget Appendix Fee Schedule. (02-O-21)

(F) This fee shall be above and beyond the land dedication or payment-in-lieu of dedication as required under s. 15.02(4)(B).

(5) Fee-In-Lieu Of Street Frontage For Parkland

(A) Where a fee-in-lieu of parkland dedication is accepted or where the Park Commission decides that the full frontage is not required, a fee in lieu of street frontage shall be paid in accord with the following:

(1) The actual amount of lineal street frontage provided (by agreement with the Park Commission) shall be subtracted from the total amount of lineal street frontage that would be required for the development or land division by s.15.09(9). The resulting figure shall be multiplied by a dollar amount as set forth in the Annual Budget Appendix Fee Schedule. This product will represent the total fee in lieu of lineal street frontage the development is required to pay. (02-O-21)

(2) The established fee value shall be as set forth in the Annual Budget Appendix Fee Schedule. (02-O-21)

(B) Money collected shall be placed in a segregated account to use for development of one of the City community parks or trails.

(C) The fee-in-lieu of frontage requirement is applicable to all land divisions and developments unless street frontage for dedicated parklands is provided in accord with s. 15.09(9). This fee is in addition to parkland improvement fees identified in s. 15.15(4) or the parkland requirements of fee-in-lieu of parkland dedication required by s. 15.02(4).

The above and foregoing ordinance was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Fitchburg at a regular meeting held on January 9, 1990.